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FATAH'S ABU IYAD HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE IN SAN'A' 17 Mar

JN171903 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Mar 80 JN

[Text] San'a', 17 March--Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, Fatah Central Committee member, has reaffirmed the PLO's rejection of the Camp David Accords and the so-called self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

At a press conference here today, Abu Iyad said that the Palestinian leadership has actually proved capable of responding to and interacting with the events, but within the limits of not relinquishing the historical rights of the Palestinian people and of not outbidding over the cause.

On the normalization of Egyptian-Zionist relations, Abu Iyad said that the Egyptian people have always fought against Israel and Zionism (for the sake) of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian cause. Self-rule has so far failed to achieve one single step.

Abu Iyad added that the Palestinian people, inside and outside the occupied territories, and the Palestinian revolution with all its factions will reject self-rule and will thus deal the first blow to Camp David.

Abu Iyad called on the Arab nation to support the Palestinian people and to give them real and actual support because the issue of Palestine and that of Jerusalem are not ours alone but belong to the Arab nation and to every free person in the world.

He pointed out that European public opinion is now retracting its support for the Camp David partners. Also, there is opposition by some U.S. circles. He expressed his hope that the current U.S. administration will understand all the dimensions of the Palestinian cause and find an appropriate solution for this cause instead of trying to impose the Camp David Accords.

Touching on the Lebanese problem. Abu Iyad said that the PLO wants to restore national accord in Lebanon. He expressed the hope that the Lebanese war will end and national accord will be realized. This would achieve parallel rule and would provide us with tranquility so that we could cooperate with the Lebanese Government within the framewords proposed by Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis.

VOP: FARUQ QADDUMI CALLS FOR NEW UN RESOLUTION ON PALESTINE

NC180740 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to Arab World 0530 GMT 18 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department, has concluded a 3-day visit to Jordan during which he held talks with King Husayn, Prime Minister Ash-Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf and other high-ranking Jordanian officials on the latest developments in the Palestine question and the current situation in the Arab area.

Before leaving Amman, Brother Abu al-Lutf held a meeting at the PLO office in Amman with the members of the Palestine National Council who reside in Jordan. During the meeting, he expressed satisfaction at the outcome of his visit and at the joint Palestinian-Jordanian action aimed at strengthening the steadfastness of our people in the occupied territories and confronting the self-rule conspiracy and the Camp David agreements.

Brother Abu al-Lutf praised the stand of France and other European countries on the Palestine question. He said that events in Afghanistan have prompted Europe to act to settle the Middle East conflict. He called on the European community to act to produce a new UN Security Council resolution on the Middle East, saying that the mere amendment of Resolution 242 would not be enough to secure the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

On the situation in south Lebanon, brother Abu al-Lutf said that Israel is working by various means to obstruct the reconciliation process in Lebanon. On the Arab aid for the joint Jordanian-Palestinian Fund in support of the inhabitants of the occupied territories, brother Abu al-Lutf said that Libya and Algeria have not yet paid their obligations and that Kuwait has not yet fully paid its contributions for 1979.

PLO'S QADDUMI TALKS WITH PALESTINIANS IN JORDAN

JN180901 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Mar p 20 80 JN

[By Muhammad Abu Ghawsh]

[Text] Head of the PLO Political Department Faruq Qaddumi has expressed his satisfaction with the talks he held with His Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials. Speaking to Palestine National Council members and employees in the PLO office in Amman, he said: Palestinian-Jordanian joint action has contributed to strengthening our people's steadfastness in the occupied land and their resistance against the self-rule conspiracy.

The head of the PLO Political Department said that the talks dealt with the results of French President Giscard d'Estaing's visit to Jordan, as part of his tour of the area. They also dealt with steps for coordination and future action on the international level, particularly since the UN Security Council is about to convene a special session at the end of March, at the request of the committee of 20 on Palestinian people's rights the UN General Assembly, to issue a resolution on the Palestinian issue.

Mr Qaddumi pointed out that if the United States resorts to the veto, the issue will be raised before the UN General Assembly. He added: This necessitates intensive contacts with our friends, Third World countries and the European states, to canvass their support for Arab rights.

Qaddumi explained that the Palestinian delegation's talks with Jordanian officials also dealt with several bilateral issues and issues of common interest.

On the reiterated reports about a European initiative, particularly in the wake of French President Giscard d'Estaing's visit to the region, Qaddumi said: Europe's current actions are not considered an initiative but, rather, are encouraging steps on the road to crystallizing an initiative that will not be announced before 26 May, the date that has been fixed as a deadline for the self-rule talks, so that the European countries will not anger the United States.

On the Arab countries' commitments to bolster our people's steadfastness in the occupied land, Qaddumi said: With the exception of Libya and Algeria, the Arab countries have fulfilled their commitments, in accordance with the Baghdad Summit resolutions, to bolster our people's steadfastness in the occupied land.

Concluding his speech, Mr Qaddumi pointed out that the next meeting of the Palestine National Council is expected to convene at the end of April. Contacts are currently being held among representatives of the various resistance groups on this topic.

OMAN

VOICE OF PFLO: QABUS RECRUITING PAKISTANI MERCENARIES

LD161712 Aden Voice of PFLO in Arabic 1545 GMT 15 Mar 80 LD/EA

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] The little policeman needs new mercenaries, brothers. It is very proper that our dear listeners should be told about the present actions of the Muscat agent regime aimed at achieving many things to serve imperialist and reactionary objectives in the region.

Qabus has sent a military delegation to Pakistan to recruit Baluchis who have never done any military service at all for the sultan's army in Muscat, which has been getting over 40 percent of the sultanate's overall budget ever since that country began preparing budgets--the country which has been under the rule of the agent dynasty of the Al Bu Sa'id. The Qabus regime, which world imperialist circles led by the United States have been trying to set up as watchman over their interests in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula, opened an office in the middle of last year in Karachi to assume the responsibility of recruiting Baluchis. This happened after permission had been obtained from the Pakistani authorities to enable the regime to bolster its military capabilities because Omani youths had refused to join the army--in spite of the tempting financial rewards offered by the regime to those joining the armed forces--when the citizens of our country found out the facts about the regime and its objectives.

This is why the regime had no alternative but to meet its needs in this direction by recruiting Baluchis and other foreigners. Although we know that the majority of his majesty's army is composed of Baluchis, Britons and others, the language of figures is none the less more understandable. Accordingly, we say that over 60 percent of the members of the sultanate's army are Baluchis, while the Britons in it number well over 800 officers and men who hold sensitive and commanding posts in this motley army. There are also few hundred men from East Africa. While Qabus' military forces comprise such a quaint motley crowd, there are also scores of Korean workers employed on various projects in the sultanate, including the fisheries and other service projects. These Koreans also make up a reserve army in the countries where they work, the primary aim of which is to suppress popular uprisings for freedom and real independence.

The present American imperialist design is based on supporting satellite regimes linked to imperialist circles. These regimes are led by that of Qabus, who has demonstrated his great readiness to carry out any tasks demanded of him by such circles in this region. The Americans have said through scores of their officials that they have vital interests in this region. The United States has expressed a (?readiness) to help Qabus' regime militarily by providing him with military and other types of equipment provided he undertakes to find manpower which can carry out such tasks as may be delegated to him by his imperialist masters. The sultan's foundations are shaky, so the strengthening of these at this stage is a central task.

Our heroic Oman people, that has sacrificed thousands of martyrs for their freedom and independence, are quite capable of foiling all the designs of imperialism and reaction and preventing them from establishing themselves in Omani territory, as has been the case with the Iranian Revolution.

This is so because our people are fighting with all means available to them for a just cause and the end of the foreign (?armies)--British, American, Egyptian and others--which will face nothing but defeat and rout at the hand of our masses, who will accept nothing less than the removal of bases and the departure of the foreign military forces from our land, because this is one of our people's just demands.

The Arabs say that no right can be lost provided there is someone demanding it.

PFLO SPOKESMAN CONDEMNS US 'INTERFERENCE' IN SULTANATE

LD162050 Aden Voice of PFLO in Arabic 1545 GMT 16 Mar 80 LD/EA

[Text] Brothers: An official PFLO spokesman has made the following statement about U.S. military interference in Oman:

The collapse of the agent shah's regime in Iran dealt a cruel blow to the strategy of U.S. imperialism in the Middle East, particularly in the Gulf region, inasmuch as this deprived it of its most important agent for performing the role of gendarme to protect imperialist interests in this important region of the world. The victory of the Iranian Revolution destroyed the old U.S. strategy, thus compelling the U.S. administration to lay down a new strategy against the will of the peoples of the region, a region which is a sensitive part of the world, so as to be able to plunder its natural resources.

Within days of the fall of the defunct regime of the shah, U.S. military and political delegations began arriving in the Arab Peninsula and the Gulf. The most modern weapons began flowing toward the U.S. agents of the region, followed by thousands of U.S. military experts. U.S. imperialism declared its readiness to intervene militarily in the Arab Gulf region. It sent huge aircraft carriers into the Indian Ocean, the Arabian Sea, the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Gulf, as well as its rapid deployment force consisting of 1,800 men. It held a series of meetings with the regime's reactionary regimes to establish military bases in their territories under flimsy, trumped-up pretexts about threats from the USSR, the protection of U.S. hostages in Tehran, protection of the Strait of Hormuz, events in Afghanistan and so on.

The official PFLO spokesman said emphatically in his statement that the agent Qabus was the first to have welcomed U.S. military bases in Oman and that he had concluded a secret agreement with Carter during his visit to the United States. That agreement was exposed after Qais Zawawi's visit to the United States in March 1980 [date as heard], when he delivered a letter to Carter from Qabus, giving the United States the right to use Masirah Island base and bases in Salalah and Tamrayt, the base at [name indistinct] and a naval base in the Ruus al-Jibal area, or more precisely, Umm al-Ghanam Island, which controls the entrance to the Arab Gulf, as well as extensive facilities in all Omani ports for the U.S. Navy.

This clear evidence is not mentioned here as propaganda or for agitation, but as hard facts admitted by the Muscat agents, such as Qabus, Zawawi and Yusuf Alawi, themselves. For example, on 13 January 1980, an official spokesman of the Qabus regime's Foreign Ministry declared that negotiations were in progress between the United States and the Muscat regime to define the types of facilities which the United States would be permitted to make use of. On the same day, U.S. officials declared that Oman had agreed in principle to permit the U.S. Navy and Air Force to use some of its military facilities. The officials said that agreement in principle had been reached during a visit by a U.S. military and political delegation to Oman.

On 18 February 1980, Qais Zawawi, the foreign minister, declared that his government had no objection to giving the United States military facilities in the ports and airports close to the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

Qabus' actions are nothing new to our masses or our militant Arab nation. He is up to his ears in the quagmire of treachery without which he cannot live. [as heard] The last few years have palpably demonstrated that Qabus' regime cannot survive without the British military presence and the forces of the ousted shah. The shah's forces left after the victory of the Iranian Revolution. Qabus replaced them with Egyptian forces and strengthened his treasonous links with the regime of the agent As-Sadat, supported all the latter's capitulatory steps and linked himself with him by means of military agreements, whose articles were drawn by the Anglo-American Ministry of Defense [as heard], following political and military visits paid by political and military experts to Egypt and Oman.

Qabus sank deeper into his unpatriotic treachery against the nation when he opened Oman up to the U.S. Navy and Air Force and placed our country at the service of world imperialist designs. By this disgraceful act he has come to threaten not only the security, peace and stability of the Omani people but also to directly threaten the security, peace and stability of the peoples of the Arab Gulf region, the entire Arab region and the whole world. He has plunged the region into a real danger by making Oman a springboard for U.S. military intervention against the peoples of the region and the source of a direct threat against the progressive regime of Democratic Yemen, the Iranian Revolution and the whole nationalist movement in the Arab Gulf and Peninsula. The concentration of the remnants of SAVAK and Yemeni mercenaries in Oman is clear evidence of the hostile intentions of imperialism and reaction.

The agent regime of Qabus has challenged the will of the Omani people and that of the entire Arab nation by surrendering Omani territory to U.S. invading forces to transform Oman into a vanguard strategic position [word indistinct] new U.S. strategy in the Middle East region and particularly to control the Strait of Hormuz, to dominate the sealanes which are vital to the world as a whole, spread the influence of U.S. imperialism over most of the Arab Gulf countries and the Arab Peninsula and conspire against the other progressive states opposed to imperialism, Zionism and reaction. We have long and often called attention to the dangers of imperialist moves in this sensitive part of the world and explained that the agent Qabus would bring to the region more dangers and disasters because he was bereft of the most basic patriotic and national sentiments. He is interested in nothing except continuing with his life of unlimited luxury and licentiousness. He is now eager for a U.S. military presence in the Arab Gulf region, whereas before he was eager for the shah's military presence. Our militant Omani people, led by the PFLO and subjected by the Al Bu Sa'id family's treacherous policies to multinational colonialist invasions, will not be intimidated by U.S. forces. They will press on with their struggle, using all ways, and means, led by armed struggle, to expel the Anglo-American imperialists from our country so as to achieve real independence for Oman and enable it to effectively contribute to realization of security and stability in the region, free from imperialist interference, and to the struggle of our Arab nation.

The official PFLO spokesman concluded his statement by saying: On behalf of the struggling Omani people, we appeal to the Arab states to take stern measures against the agent Qabus regime because of its perpetration of this treachery against the Arab nation. We also appeal to all peoples and peace and freedom-loving nations to condemn and punish the Qabus agent regime and American imperialism.

SAUDI ARABIA

VISITING SUDANESE PRESIDENT MEETS WITH KING KHALID

LD171258 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 17 March--King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz called at 1245 today on Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri at the An-Nasiriyah guest palace. King Khalid was accompanied by Second Deputy Prime Minister and Commander of the National Guard Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and Prince Mash'al ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

Departs 17 Mar

LD171300 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1240 GMT 17 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 17 March--Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri left Riyadh at 1500 today at the end of his 2-day visit to the Saudi Arabian Kingdom during which he held talks on matters of common interest. Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, and Second Deputy Prime Minister and Commander of the National Guard Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz headed those who were at hand to bid farewell to the Sudanese president.

KINGDOM REPORTEDLY WILLING TO FUND NEW FRENCH MIRAGE

LD161242 Kuwait KUNA in English 1036 GMT 16 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait, March 16 (KUNA)--Saudi Arabia is willing to share in funding the building of a new French Mirage 4,000 jet fighter, AL-QABAS daily reported here Sunday. A report from Washington, the paper said Saudi Arabia intends to invest 1.5 billion dollars in the French Dassaut firm to help it build the new jet fighter.

The paper, quoting what it described as American sources close to the European military industries, as saying that the Saudis are strengthening their ties with the French in the field of armament particularly after the French President Valery Giscard 'Estaing's recent visit to six Arab countries including Saudi Arabia.

AL-QABAS quoted the executive president of Dassaut being Claude Valeir, as saying he does not expect the French Government to help fund building this plane because of shortages.

YAR

FATAH'S SALAH KHALAF LEAVES 17 MAR

JN172116 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpt] Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, Fatah Central Committee member, left San'a' today at the end of a 3-day visit to the YAR. During the visit, Khalaf conveyed a verbal message to brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih from his brother Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee Chairman, on the current Arab situation and the latest developments in the Palestinian arena. Khalaf also met with Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani.

AUTONOMY TALKS TO RESUME IN ALEXANDRIA 22 MAR

NC171540 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Mar 80 NC

[Excerpts] The autonomy committee will hold a new round of talks in Alexandria on 22 March at the level of heads of delegations.

An official source in the Foreign Ministry said that Egypt welcomed any proposals or overtures that would push the autonomy talks toward the aim Egypt was seeking; the establishment of a full autonomy for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

AS-SADAT TO SET UP AFGHAN OFFICE AT 'ISLAMIC-ARAB LEAGUE'

NC171756 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1655 GMT 17 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 17 March--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat today received Abdol Wahid Karim, the former ambassador of Afghanistan in Cairo, who arrived from Pakistan, where he met with various Afghan national organizations.

The president told the former Afghan ambassador that Egypt would be establishing an Islamic-Arab league. The president asked him to inform the leaders of the Afghan national organizations, all those working for the liberation of Afghanistan and all strugglers inside Afghanistan that he would allocate an office for Afghanistan at the new league, that the office would be run by Afghan nationalists the way they deemed it, and that Egypt would be doing this in fulfillment of its Islamic and historic responsibilities.

Abdol Wahid Karim is also expected to meet with Muhammad Riyad, the Arab League's acting secretary general.

ARMY TO RECEIVE M-60 TANKS BEFORE END OF YEAR

NC172227 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2203 GMT 17 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 17 March--Defense and War Production Minister Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali has declared that Egypt will receive the first batch of the most up-to-date U.S. M-60 tanks before the end of this year. Agreement was reached on supplying these tanks within the framework of the second U.S. loan for arming Egypt.

In an exclusive statement to be published by AL-AHRAM tomorrow, Tuesday, the minister says that U.S. officials have shown full understanding of Egypt's demands for modern weapons. He adds that very good results regarding cooperation with the United States in war and civil production will be announced soon. This includes producing sophisticated weapons in Egypt and benefitting from the Egyptian warplants and the Arab organization's factories in producing new types of cars and other equipment for the civilian sector.

It is known that Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali is being currently treated for rheumatism at a U.S. hospital. AL-AHRAM says in this regard that the Egyptian minister feels an obvious improvement and that he is on the way to recovery.

CAIRO PAPER VIEWS OUTBREAK OF 'POPULAR REVOLUTION' IN SYRIA

LD180801 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 15 Mar 80 p 1 LD

[Sami Hakim report]

[Text] The popular revolution which has erupted in Homs, Aleppo and Hamah is no longer confined to the enemies of [Syrian President] al-Asad and his Ba'thist 'Alawite government as various classes of the Syrian people have participated in it.

association has addressed an ultimatum to the Syrian authorities to the effect that the lawyers will implement their decision to stage a strike at the end of this month if political detainees are not released and all extraordinary situations the country is experiencing are not abolished. The judges have also submitted a note protesting at the state of coercion the citizens are experiencing.

With regard to the state of anxiety and unrest prevailing in Syrian cities, the Ba'th authorities have accused Saudi Arabia and Kuwait of giving material aid to the insurgents. They have also accused Jordan of opening its borders to the insurgents.

In view of the fact that the Ba'th authorities are aware of the anti-Moscow feelings, they have placed strong guard on the Soviet experts, whose number has recently been increased to 2,800.

COURT ACQUITS TWO RECRUITED BY LIBYAN INTELLIGENCE

NC171204 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 17 Mar 80 NC

[Excerpts] Marsa Matruh, 17 March--The supreme military court in Matruh under the presidency of Col Bakr Tawfiq with Col I'brahim Hasanayn and Maj Sa'd 'Umran as members and in the presence of Matruh Military Prosecution Chief Col Fathi Qutb, today acquitted 'Abd al-Hadi 'Allam Mayhub and 'Abd al-Hadi Mu'min Da'bas. The two men had been recruited by the Libyan intelligence to carry out bombing and sabotage operations on the country's vital installations with the aim of annoying the Egyptian authorities and forcing them to accept the scheme drawn up by Libya's madman Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi for the annexation of the Egyptian western Sahara to Libya by force.

The court based its acquittal of the two defendants on the law which gives citizens who deviate the right to abandon crime, repent and inform the authorities of the crimes they are assigned to commit, before committing them.

The two defendants had infiltrated across the Egyptian border in a truck. They carried arms, ammunition and explosives supplied by Libyan intelligence for the purpose of carrying out acts of terrorism and sabotage in the country. They surrendered to the Egyptian authorities and made full confessions exposing the Libyan criminal plots against Egypt and a number of other Arab states.

They revealed the locations of the terrorist training camps in Libya and the names of those who were in charge. They said that the man responsible for their recruitment was Capt Muhammad Idris ash-Shuhaybi. They said that after training them in the use of arms and explosives he instructed them to infiltrate into Egypt to carry out the terrorist plot drawn up by Libya's colonel. He supplied them with 23 kgs of highly explosive Soviet-made TNT sticks, defensive handgrenades, some light weapons and ammunition. These arms were hidden under clothing material in the vehicle they used to cross the border.

OIL MINISTER SEES ARAB-EUROPEAN COOPERATION AS MEANS TO PREVENT WAR

LD141057 Kuwait AS-SIYASH in Arabic 9 Mar 80 p 8 LD

[Interview granted by Iraqi Revolution Command Council member and Oil Minister Tayih 'Abd al-Karim to David Lynn-Bryce--date and place not given]

[Text] [Question] Is it true that Iraqi oil production has reached its maximum capacity?

[Answer] Yes, almost. Iraqi oil production capacity is 4 million barrels per day, and we are now producing 3.7 million barrels per day. The market will determine whether or not we maintain this production level.

[Question] What are the plans for conserving energy and reducing production?

[Answer] There are plans in this regard, and they are influenced by four factors; first, the industrialization projects in Iraq; second, our national commitments to friendly states; third, the interest-free long-term loans to the developing countries; and, fourth, Iraq's local needs.

In the long term the market conditions will determine the energy conservation plans. In this respect Iraq will cooperate with OPEC to avoid an oil market surplus. We will try to strike a balance in this regard, Iraq's oil is considered a national asset, and this asset cannot be renewed. Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has already said that "the last two barrels of oil in the world must be Iraqi."

The Oil Ministry is trying to create substitutes for oil such as solar, nuclear and hydroelectric energy. We also encourage the consuming countries to reduce oil consumption, but we (the producing countries) and the consuming countries must also deal with oil in a reasonable manner in the future. Oil is one of the noble products, for it has contributed tremendously to scientific development in the 20th century. We look forward to encouraging the use of oil as a raw material in the production of petrochemicals.

[Question] What quantity of oil is being sold at government level and what quantity on the free spot market?

[Answer] All Iraqi oil is being sold on contract.

[Question] What are Iraq's conditions for increasing production in return for obtaining technology?

[Answer] Our oil production is considered a government strategy. Oil is an expendable asset. Iraqi oil is sold on certain conditions, the first of which is the political view of the customer or allied state; second, the world's need for trade and financial returns, and our need to obtain technology.

[Question] There are rumors that American oil exploration companies have been invited to replace the Soviet companies in the Rumaylah oilfields. Can you confirm these rumors?

[Answer] These rumors are not quite true. We are having discussions with American companies, but we are not prepared to replace the Russians with Americans. We welcome any international firm that cooperates with us in this field, whether it is American, European or socialist. We respect our commitments.

[Question] Does Iraq support the establishment of a comprehensive Arab project for marketing and refining oil?

[Answer] The Iraqi national oil company is marketing all Iraqi crude. This company is the biggest marketing establishment in the Arab oil-producing countries. Iraq welcomes any Arab effort to cooperate and to coordinate oil marketing strategies. This would be a step toward Arab economic unity, which is one of our major objectives.

[Question] What are Iraq's financial allocations for the Iraqi development program?

[Answer] The statements published in the national newspapers in this regard are correct.

[Question] What is Iraq's attitude toward dialog between the Gulf states and the EEC countries?

[Answer] The statement issued following At-Ta'if's meeting clarified Iraq's stand in this regard. We have certain reservations toward this dialog. We believe that the European Community has adopted a negative stand. For example, these countries wish to deal with oil-producing countries in North Africa separately. We object to that. All Arabs as a whole must take part in such a dialog, and not just one Arab group to the exclusion of another. The dialog must plan for the implementation of technical, financial and economic matters.

[Question] What are Iraq's conditions with regard to the aid it gives to developing countries?

[Answer] Iraq itself is a developing state. It is an effective member of the nonalined movement. We are serious in adhering to our commitments to aid allied countries through the Iraqi fund for foreign aid and the OPEC fund, as well as through the fund which President Saddam Husayn proposed last year. The latter aims at helping the developing countries to bear higher oil prices and absorb the cost of imported inflation. At present Iraq is giving $1.2 billion in the form of aid, loans and grants to the developing countries.

[Question] The Gulf states fear the coming of the Soviets to the area to obtain oil. What is Iraq's experience in dealing with the Soviet Union with regard to oil and gas?

[Answer] With regard to oil, we deal with every country on a commercial basis, but we deal with other countries on the basis of respecting their sovereignty and independence and of noninterference in their internal affairs, as well as on the basis of common interests and mutual benefits. We also deal with the countries that adopt positive stands toward Arab rights. When they supply us with arms and technology, we support their struggle. In 1970 we signed an agreement with the Soviet Union for the development of the northern Rumaylah oilfield.

[Question] Some companies are afraid that they will be unable to renew their contracts to buy Iraqi oil because of the boycott terms that Iraq laid down in September 1979.

[Answer] That is up to the companies themselves. Many companies have renewed their contracts.

Concluding his statement, he said: The present situation in the Gulf is unstable. As a result of As-Sadat's policy toward Israel the area is exposed to danger. The cause is oil and the problem of securing the oil routes. The area must not come under the domination of the two superpowers. World opinion must let Europe and its allies in the developing world know what is happening in the area and what is happening in Palestine. The United States, with the support of Zionism, is flouting the Palestinian Arab people's rights. Europe has many interests in the area and must act independently of the two superpowers. There is room for cooperation between Europe and the Arab countries, and the European and Arab countries can together prevent the outbreak of a third world war. Europe and its Third World allies must seek to achieve permanent peace in the Middle East, and it is Europe's responsibility to coordinate efforts to prevent the two superpowers from dominating this area.

DEPUTY PREMIER 'AZIZ MEETS NICARAGUAN OFFICIAL

JN151245 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 15 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 15 March--Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member and deputy prime minister, met here today with Mrs Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, member of the Nicaraguan Revolutionary Council, and the delegation accompanying her. The discussion at the meeting dealt with bilateral relations and ways to strengthen them within the context of the principles of nonalinement and the joint revolutionary struggle against imperialism, Zionism and racism.

It will be recalled that Mrs Barrios de Chamorro, and the delegation accompanying her, is currently visiting Iraq to attend the meetings of the ninth conference of the Iraqi women's union.

RCC AMENDS PROVISIONAL CONSTITUTION'S ARTICLES

JN161909 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 16 March--Today, the RCC amended a number of articles of the provisional constitution to make them compatible with the National Assembly Law.

The amended Article 48 stipulates that the National Assembly shall hold two ordinary sessions every year. The president of the republic is empowered to call for an extraordinary session if need be. The session shall be confined to the topics that prompted the call.

An amended paragraph of Article 50 of the constitution stipulates that the assembly members shall be immune from pursuit or arrest for a crime during the regular assembly sessions unless the assembly issues a permit to this effect or the member is caught in the act of committing a crime.

UN ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL VISITS BEIRUT

Meets Leaders

NC171257 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Mar 80 NC

[Text] UN Assistant Secretary General Brian Urquhart today began his meetings with Lebanese officials to discuss the developments of the situation in southern Lebanon, the possibility of implementing the UN Security Council resolutions, and the plan for Lebanese and UN military deployment in the whole area of southern Lebanon.

At 1000 today President Ilyas Sarkis received Mr Urquhart and discussed with him the situation in general and the UNIFIL mission in southern Lebanon. Mr Urquhart, accompanied by Samir Sanbar, the director of the UN information office in Beirut, then went to the Chamber of Deputies where he was received by speaker Kamil al-As'ad. They discussed the situation in the south and the future UN moves to implement the Security Council resolutions. The UN envoy then went to Government House where he was received by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss. The meeting was attended by General Erskine's political adviser, Mr (Holiver), John (Claudine) and Samir Sanbar.

Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus held a luncheon today in honor of Mr Urquhart during which they continued their discussions, which they began last Saturday, on the new developments in southern Lebanon. The UN envoy is due to call on Defense Minister Joseph Skaf for the same purpose.

Encounters 'Some Difficulties'

NC180822 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 18 Mar 80 NC

[Text] UN Assistant Secretary General Urquhart, who left Beirut this morning, has emphasized that the Security Council is convinced of the importance of the presence of the UN emergency forces in the south. He said the United Nations is watching with extreme interest the deployment of the army in the Lebanese area. He said he hopes the army will make more progress. Before leaving, Urquhart said: I carry no particular proposals regarding the Lebanese question because it is complex and has many aspects, the most important being the foreign aspect. I have visited the south and inspected the position of the UN forces there. I encountered some difficulties in my talks but I will hold continuous contacts with the Lebanese Government to promote solutions that would bring progress.

DEFENSE AIDE REVIEWS ARMS TALKS WITH LIBYA'S AL-QADHDHAFI

LD171233 London AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 17-23 Mar 80 pp 18-19 LD

[Interview given to AD-DUSTUR correspondent by Col Fu'ad Lahhud, chairman of the Lebanese Parliamentary Defense Committee--place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [Question] You were in the Libyan Jamahiriyah recently. What was the purpose of the visit and what were its results?

[Answer] I had been invited to attend the 1 September [revolution anniversary] celebrations but I could not for family reasons. Later, I visited the Jamahiriyah and met with Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. The visit was an occasion to discuss the affairs of the area. Colonel al-Qadhdhafi expressed utmost readiness to help Lebanon to end its tragedy and to strengthen the capabilities of the Lebanese Army. He had promised me this in 1975 but events made it impossible. I am grateful to al-Qadhdhafi. We are now in the process of formalizing the aid we want him to give us officially. I am confident that the colonel will not hesitate to give us this aid but only when we tell him that the Lebanese Army has become fit to receive and use the weapons at the time and place dictated by the Lebanese national and pan-Arab duty.

[Question] Did the discussions deal with specific types of weapons?

[Answer] I spoke about air cover. I am confident that our good friend Colonel al-Qadhdhafi will not hesitate to take an additional step. He told me: "I am prepared to give every support provided you. Colonel Lahhud, tell me that the Lebanese Army has reached the state where it can use these weapons." Certainly, I will not deceive Al-Qadhdhafi. If I see that the Lebanese army has not reached that state, I will not ask for the weapons. When I meet with President Sarkis tomorrow I will tell him: "We in the Chamber of Deputies have passed the defense and national service bills and we have obtained a promise of advanced weapons that will save us hundreds of millions of dollars. It is up to you, Mr President, to make the decision." If he fails to make the decision, then he will be fully responsible.

VOL: ARAB ARMY OF LEBANON DETAINS POLICEMEN

NC161853 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 16 Mar 80 NC

[Text] In Al-Biqa', the so-called Arab Army of Lebanon set up this afternoon armed barriers in Ta'ibaya between Sa'd Nayil and Ksarah and along the Riyaq-Kafr Zabad Road, linking Zahlah city with the rest of Al-Biqa'. Our correspondent reports that the purpose of these barriers is to obstruct the movement of Lebanese military personnel. At 1630 today in Sa'd Nayil, armed elements belonging to the so-called Arab Army of Lebanon stopped a Lebanese Army bus that was carrying 25 policemen who were on their way from Riyaq Airbase to join the Zahlah company after a training course. The armed elements detained the Lebanese security elements but the citizens interfered and helped 18 Lebanese policemen escape. Contacts were later intensified and resulted in the release of seven other policemen in two groups.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS AMAL-FATAH CLASHES

NC170642 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 17 Mar 80 NC

[Text] The security situation in the commercial centers, As-Sayfi and neighboring areas remains unchanged. Relative calm continues to prevail there despite the sporadic exchanges of fire until dawn in the Pigalle, Empire, Al-Burj, Ad-Dabbas, and port road. The Fu'ad Shihab Bridge is still cut off because of continuous leftist and Palestinian sniper fire. At dawn today clashes were renewed in Al-Awza'i between the Amal Organization and the Palestinian organization, Fatah. The exchange of fire intensified between 0300 and 0500. It is not known yet whether there were casualties.

Further Report

NC171305 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 17 Mar 80 NC

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon correspondent reports that Fatah has established an office in Al-Awza'i in which it has installed armed persons equipped with machineguns and artillery. The Amal Organization asked the Palestinian organization to close this office by midnight. However, it appears that Fatah is not willing to close this office because it is near an access to southern Beirut. Clashes took place today in Al-Awza'i between the Fatah and Amal organizations, as a result of which three persons were wounded. The clashes resumed on a limited scale after 1000. During these clashes large numbers of armed men belonging to the Al-Qubaysi group were observed in the St Simon quarter and [words indistinct]. These groups were providing support for the Fatah organization in its dispute with Amal. The Voice of Lebanon correspondent in the south reports that armed clashes took place this morning in the Sidon-Az-Zahrani area between elements belonging to Ahmad al-Khatib and Palestinian forces belonging to the Fatah organization.

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD ADDRESSES TEACHERS' CONFERENCE 15 MAR

JN151857 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Mar 80 JN

["Text of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's speech at the opening session of the third general emergency conference of the Syrian Teachers Union in Damascus on 15 March--read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Brother teachers, I heard you say: We sacrifice our souls and blood for you, Hafiz. Allow me to say and repeat with you: I sacrifice my soul and blood for you, masses of teachers; I sacrifice my soul and blood for you, toiling masses.

You, brother teachers, are the important basis for teaching our children and youth love of the homeland and its defense against its enemies. You are the basic pillar for building people's minds, since the mind is the core of life. Therefore, I can see that you are the best to understand what is taking place. I see that you are the more capable of realizing the aims of this colonialist-U.S.-reactionary offensive, which aims at destroying what we have constructed, beginning with the destruction of our national steadfastness and ending with the disintegration of our concepts, minds and the basic elements of our structure as people, homeland and nation.

The first objective sought by the United States, Israel and their agents is to destroy this lofty Arab barrier in this country; it is to destroy the barrier of Arab steadfastness in this country, which has for several years embarked on creating troubles and difficulties in the face of their scheme, which is aimed at completely closing this region in the interest of Israel and the United States. If our stand toward Camp David has troubled the United States, it was not the only stand that vexed the United States and Israel; and, it will not--God willing and with these people's determination--be the last stand which will vex the United States.

Our stand toward Camp David was not the only stand which vexed the United States and perplexed its schemes. There were several other stands during the past years which troubled the United States and impeded its schemes. The United States took revenge against these stands as much as it could, but the stand toward Camp David--as is clear--is the more serious stand because Camp David is the more important link and the sharp slide which might lead to a complete liquidation and to the imposition of complete hegemony on the Arab nation so that this region will become a U.S.-Israeli protectorate. In this situation, we shall be feeding on the crumbs of their tables and enjoying the warmth of their guns. Can this be achieved? No, I swear by God that this will not be achieved. I swear on your behalf that this will not take place as long as there is life in our faces and blood in our veins.

After As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, they exerted intensified efforts and great attempts to sow anxiety and despair in every place of our Arab homeland and in every Arab individual, both on the level of citizens and governments. As-Sadat went to Jerusalem and Egypt walked out of the battle. So what can we do? Can we stand fast? Can we here in Syria and the Arab homeland fight? These were questions asked everywhere, and you heard them. But our stand here in this country was clear and our reply was direct. We said:

1. As-Sadat's Egypt walked out, but Egypt of the people and Arabs will undoubtedly return. It is only a matter of time.

2. The other Arabs are capable of steadfastness and war when the appropriate time for war comes. Therefore, we in Syria reject the Camp David line and all that is branching from it.

They said: Egypt walked out with its 40 million people, so how can we fight after this? We said that we are not suffering from a serious human problem; let us cover other issues. Neither we in Syria nor the Arab nation suffer from a serious human problem. If it were a matter of millions, I would like to say that we in Syria have exceeded 9 million in number and are moving toward 10 million. The number of our soldiers is 10 percent of the population, and this is a normal percentage for many world countries. Syria can mobilize between 900,000 and 1,000,000 soldiers. This figure shows that we are not suffering from a human problem.

Let us cover the other aspects of the subject. We in Syria have to restore the Arab rights and dignity. The United States and Israel did not and will not forgive us for such words, such a stand and such action. They know that such words turn into deeds. They will never forgive us for saying this, and they did not forgive it in the past. Therefore, they resorted to their old rusty swords, using them in our backs and chests with all their might, forgetting that people's matters and causes are no longer the property of a cowardly faction, which killed citizens treacherously and disappointed and betrayed a homeland.

Brother teachers: I met with you during your conference and I recall stressing the importance of working together everywhere, especially in schools, to deepen and develop the national spirit because this spirit is the strong weapon which achieves the wishes and victories of this homeland. It is the strong weapon that bridges all gaps and repulses the rusty old swords occasionally used by the colonialists and enemies of our people. Today we find ourselves face to face with these rusty swords. Our weapon in facing them is this huge generation, this lofty generation that loves the homeland and the toiling masses of this homeland.

PRIME MINISTER AL-KASM STRESSES PALESTINIAN RIGHTS ISSUE

JN151950 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm has stressed that the Palestine question was, is and will continue to be the main axis in our Arab policy. In an interview with the Paris-based AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI magazine, he said that the government's main goal on the Arab level will continue to be, as it has always been, steadfastness in the face of the Israeli-U.S.- As-Sadat pact and the prevention of any Arab country from being dragged into As-Sadat's trench of treason.

The Camp David accords are an attempt to abort the Arab forces and the Palestinian right. In short, these accords are capitulatory agreements in which As-Sadat was trapped. We are now struggling so that no other Arab ruler will be trapped by these agreements.

On the internal level, the first mission is to further deepen the people's trust in themselves and in their country. This could be done by applying the law to all peoples so that the citizen may feel that he enjoys the same rights as and has the same duties of others.

The Syrian Arab people, particularly the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, were among the first to call for Arab unity. Our faith in this unity is unshakeable, despite all repeated relapses whether in past unity attempts or those we were about to start. This is not surprising, because we realize the significance of unity between two Arab countries. We are aware of the benefits of such unity and know very well how our enemies look upon this unity. It is not strange that Israel, backed by the United States and all reactionary movements inside and outside the Arab homeland, tries to wreck any unity or even any unity attempt with any Arab country. However, we put forth no conditions for unity with any Arab country other than that this country adhere to unity and be really qualified for it. Therefore, there is no policy for retreat.

No doubt that our enemies are trying to isolate us from our Arab brethren. On our side, we try to bypass conflicts because we believe that the Arabs are facing but one conflict: the Zionist enemy and world imperialism.

In 1975, the United States thought that it could drag Syria into the game. At that time, all internal and external attacks ceased. When the United States realized that Syria could not be tricked, the onslaught started. The more steadfast we become, the more fierce the onslaught was.

Why does the onslaught start now at a time when we have begun a comprehensive change? We do not want to isolate ourselves, because this will serve Israeli and U.S. interests. We are struggling so that As-Sadat will remain alone in his hole. Consequently, we bypass all Arab conflicts, which we believe are much less important until this man is deposed, because he has placed himself at the service of the Arab nation's enemies.

Replying to a question on the recent incidents during which the country's enemies inside and outside tried to confront the party and the state's nationalist march, the prime minister said: Our problem is not only with those who styled themselves as the Muslim Brotherhood. The problem is political. They do not want this country to develop, to proceed forward or to be steadfast.

The problem is with Israel and the United States. Therefore, they are trying to use all their cards and all their allies inside and outside the country. We are facing this alliance with our national unity, including all those in the National Progressive Front and others outside this framework and all honorable men who refuse to succumb to Camp David, those who refuse to go to occupied Jerusalem and those who refuse to obtain a certificate of good conduct from Washington. Therefore, we will triumph.

Asked whether there are certain groups that are trying to carry out sabotage, he said: Investigations show that there are groups from various nationalities and with various political trends. This will be revealed very soon.

Asked whether Syria has declared war on the revolution's enemies inside and outside the country, he said: We are in a continuous state of war with Israel. It is natural then that all those who place themselves on the side of Israel will find themselves in a war with us. We have not declared war on anybody yet. We will fight all those who fight us. In this, we depend on our national unity, on our friends in the nonalined movement and in the socialist camp, which has always supported us.

Replying to a question on what may happen after the redeployment of the Syrian forces operating within the Arab Deterrent Forces, the prime minister said: Our goal is to withdraw all the Syrian forces from Lebanon. This cannot be fulfilled unless we secure success for the second mission for which we went to Lebanon. We entered Lebanon, first of all, to stop the fighting and then to give a chance to all the Lebanese to reach national detente and to rebuild the state of Arab, free and united Lebanon.

I believe that the way has now been paved for the success of the second mission. The Lebanese are responsible for fulfilling this mission. We will not hesitate to give any kind of help we may be asked for, yet we will not play the role of the Lebanese or some of the Lebanese. The Lebanese have to determine how to achieve national detente. It will be quite logical that weapons will only be in the state's hands.

Asked whether the Syrian Government has discussed these issues with the Lebanese officials, he said: Of course, we have discussed these issues with the Lebanese officials. They have fully understood the reasons behind our decision to redeploy the Syrian forces, What is really regretful is that we are being asked to stay in Lebanon at a time when we hear talk about the occupation army.

About the relationship between the redeployment decision and the clash that took place in one of the Lebanese villages, the prime minister said: An aggression took place on one of the patrols of the Arab Deterrent Forces while it was doing its duty. Fire was opened on the patrol and many were killed or wounded. This attack came immediately after the redeployment decision. I personally look at this aggression from one view, which indicates that the aggressors want to say that the redeployment of forces decision and the withdrawal of the Syrian forces are due to our resistence of the Arab Deterrent Forces. I say to them: No. We entered Lebanon by our free will and we leave by our free will because what we care for is Lebanon's interest, all Lebanon's interest.

Prime Minister al-Kasm was asked about Syria's stand on Carter's proposal concerning regional cooperation in the Middle East to counter the so-called Soviet danger and the call for the signing of a friendship and cooperation agreement with the Soviet Union. The prime minister replied: First, our people rejected the Eisenhower doctrine. We, the Ba'thists, were then in the opposition front and were a minority. We were able to defeat the Eisenhower doctrine and to abort the Baghdad pact.

Today, we are in power and we are the majority, so we should abort every new attempt by the United States. If the United States cares for the Middle East's security, it must withdraw behind seas. Only then will peace and security prevail. I believe that peace and security cannot be fully achieved in Europe and the Middle East unless the U.S. influence in these areas is defeated.

I did not hear about a friendship and cooperation agreement with the Soviet Union. However, if the United States escalates its aggression, then we will ask for cooperation from all friends.

Asked whether Syria is prepared to propose plan for Middle East peace to the United Nations, Prime Minister al-Kasm said: Syria has no new proposal. But we believe that if there is any peaceful settlement--and not a capitulatory one--which may lead to the withdrawal of the Zionist forces from all the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and which may help the Palestinian people to determine their future, it should be made through the United Nations and the Security Council's channels. We will not join the trench of treason and, moreover, the Geneva conference has become quite meaningless, especially when As-Sadat moved from the pan-Arabism trench to the trench of Zionism.

After the Camp David accords, the Baghdad and Tunis summits were held. The Baghdad summit defined the Arab stand toward the Egyptian-Israeli peace. The Tunis summit dealt with the Lebanese crisis. Nowadays, Arab differences seem to have outweighed the Arab-Israeli struggle, which should be above all Arab concerns. How would you explain this? Actually, there there are no such deep-rooted Arab differences that cannot be solved. There is no doubt, however, that U.S. imperialism and Israel try to aggravate these differences to overshadow the Arab-Israeli struggle. I consider any Arab ruler who accepts or allows this game to go forward as a traitor of his country and the Arab nation.

Replying to a question on what came in President al-Asad's speech on 8 March regarding political life in Syria, the prime minister said: I have said before that the president's speech was an open door for dialog with all honorable and sincere men. We do not allow anyone to stand in the face of our national and pan-Arab policy or in the face of the policy for socialist change. However, all the citizens, through the National Progressive Front's parties, the popular organizations and the constitutional establishments, have the right to discuss things with us and to criticize us if we make mistakes.

I add that the reasons behind the acts of violence and riots are not because of an opposition to the party or to our foreign or domestic policies. The acts of violence and riot are the implementation of orders, which come from afar, to cause the fall of the only country which is giving all its potentials to the Arab's basic cause: The Palestine question.

PAPERS DENOUNCE U.S. PLOTS 'TO STRIKE INSIDE SYRIA'

JN160953 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 16 Mar 80 JN

[Press review]

[Excerpts] The newspaper TISHRIN publishes an editorial in which it stresses that Syria will always remain the stronger. The paper says: Is it a coincidence that the onslaught against our country is escalated and intensified at a time when we have begun to direct our efforts toward achieving a more solid national unity and establishing a society governed by law, where all citizens are evaluated according to their efficiency, productivity, honesty and loyalty to the homeland alone? Is it a coincidence that the onslaught becomes more fierce at a time when Israel is massing its troops on our borders and threatens us? In whose interest? Who benefits from all of this? And why now? For what purpose?

Syria is the target, Syria, the reputation of which has never been tarnished by any sectarian strife and which continues to struggle for Arab unity from the ocean to the Gulf.

They decided to wage a battle inside Syria, to force it to divert its attention from the Arab struggle against the conspiracy that was laid down in Camp David and which they are trying to implement incrementally, thus imposing a fait accompli on our nation at the expense of the Arabs' occupied territories and usurped rights. They wanted it to be a great battle and they prepared tools for it, so that it could give them great results in dealing blows to this country's national unity and could preoccupy this country with matters other than its primary and fateful cause.

Every citizen is now undergoing a test. We will not permit them to inflict upon Syria that which they did to Lebanon. We will not allow them to try with us that which they tried and continue to try with our brothers in Lebanon, to have us drink from the same poisoned cup.

The Syrians, who became masters of martydom during their jihad against the colonialists and oppressors and during their battles for their honor and pride, will not permit their heroism to be tarnished in the squares and streets of their cities and will not stain their pride, dignity and patriotism in battles planned by their enemies as traps to damage this country's role and future.

As for the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH, it stresses that the U.S. weapons given to Israel are in cowardly hands. It notes that Arab Syria has so far revealed only a part of the pan-Arab position and objectives and that Washington should expect a true revolution this time.

The paper says: All of the criminals, highwaymen, mercenaries, defeatists, grudge-bearers and those who capitalize on politics now stand with Washington and Israel. This long list has been mobilized to strike inside Syria.

O enemies, we welcome you. Come to us, roam our streets and you will be displeased by what you will see. You will find that every home embodies Arabism, that Hafiz al-Asad is in every heart and that every particle of sand contains energy to help wipe out the evil at its roots this time. The Muslim Brothers are the only black sheep in our country and we thank God that you found no one else to support you.

Americans, either you are completely deceived by the picture drawn for you by spies or else you are harboring such hatred that you are blinded by it. We believe that both cases apply to you. So far, Arab Syria has used only a part of its revolutionary power. Noble Syria has not yet revealed all of the pan-Arab position and objectives. Washington will witness a true revolution this time. We will defeat it through its reactionary forces. We defy it, in the guise of Israel and As-Sadat. If the United States believes that Arab silence is in its favor, Syria knows how to tear this veil of silence apart.

The enemy forces will realize too late that they have played with fire and chosen a difficult course. The millions of people here represent arms and trenches. They are now moving to take their positions in order to completely eradicate evil. As history has taught us, Arab Damascus will have no difficult in restoring the Arab rights.

YAR FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR TALKS 16 MAR

JN162156 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 16 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Damascus--Dr Hasan Makki, YAR deputy prime minister for foreign affairs and foreign minister, arrived in Damascus from Libya this evening for talks with Syrian officials on the current situation in the Middle East area.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam led those who received the YAR minister at Damascus international airport.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Dr Makki said: My visit to fraternal Syria is part of the consultations on urgent bilateral and Arab issues in these circumstances through which the Arab nation is passing. He added: We hope to form common and special opinions following the normalization of the relations between Israel and the Egyptian regime. He said: We constantly exchange views with 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam on a number of issues.

Departs 17 Mar

JN171004 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 17 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Damascus, 17 March--Dr Hasan Makki, YAR deputy prime minister for foreign affairs and foreign minister, left Damascus for SAN'A' this morning after a visit of several hours to Damascus. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam met with Dr Hasan Makki, their discussion dealing with Arab issues and the current situation. Dr Makki arrived in Damascus from Libya yesterday evening on a short visit.

PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER ARRIVES FOR POLITICAL TALKS

JN150603 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 15 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Alvaro Cunhal, secretary general of the Portuguese Communist Party, arrived in Damascus yesterday evening on a visit of several days at the invitation of the Ba'th Party National Command. During his visit, Cunhal will hold political and party talks and will meet with Ba'th Party and state officials.

Supports Syria's Struggle

JN170550 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 17 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Alvaro Cunhal, Portuguese Communist Party secretary general, has reaffirmed his party's support for Syria and for the Palestinian revolution in their struggle to regain the occupied territories and restore the usurped rights, including the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to the establishment of their independent state on their liberated land.

In a statement to the newspaper TISHRIN published today, Cunhal expressed his confidence that the Arab nation will defeat the Camp David accords and those who stand behind them. He said in this regard that the final victory will belong to the forces that are waging their battle against imperialism to regain their territories and rights.

Condemning U.S. policy, which is hostile to the peoples, the Portuguese CP leader said: The United States is the biggest enemy to the people's movement and their just struggle. We have no doubt that Syria will be victorious in its battle and that it will achieve the aims of the Arab cause because of the Arab countries' unity, especially that of the national and progressive forces allied with the world national liberation movement and with the communist group, led by the friendly USSR. Cunhal met with President Hafiz al-Asad yesterday evening.

Talks Begin

JN160758 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 15 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpts] Damascus--A Ba'th Party delegation led by Comrade Dr Fawwaz Sayyagh, National Command member and head of the party foreign relations office, and the Portuguese Communist Party delegation headed by Secretary General Comrade Alvaro Cunhal held a round of talks today at the National Command building in Damascus. The talks dealt with existing relations between the two parties and means of developing them in the interest of the common causes for which the two parties are fighting.

Comrade Cunhal reviewed developments in Portugal since the June 1975 revolution and the political, social and economic gains achieved by the Portuguese masses, as well as the communist party's role in the struggle to achieve all of these gains in the interest of the toiling masses. He also explained the savage onslaught waged by Portuguese reactionary circles, with the backing of the imperialists, to eliminate these progressive gains.

Comrade Cunhal said that his party highly commends the major role played by Syria, under the leadership of the Ba'th Party, in confronting all hostile imperialist, Zionist and reactionary plots and plans against the Arab nation.

Comrade Sayyagh reviewed the current situation in the Arab world in general and in Syria in particular, a situation characterized by the intensive imperialist-Zionist-reactionary offensive against the Arab nation, intended to create new circumstances that would help the Camp David partners carry out their plans to force Arab surrender and to plot against Syria, the stronghold of Arab steadfastness against imperialist, Zionist and reactionary plans. This is clear from the manipulation of the criminal Muslim Brotherhood and of all forces hostile to the revolution and its progressive line, as well as of the gains achieved for Syria by the Ba'th Party in all fields.

Comrade Sayyagh affirmed that our toiling Syrian masses are determined to foil all of these attempts and to continue to confront the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary plans against the Arab nation and its liberation forces.

During these talks, the two sides agreed on the need to strengthen the ties between the two parties by concluding a cooperation agreement for 1980 and 1981. They also agreed to issue a joint statement on the talks, reflecting their common views on issues of mutual concern.

Meets Al-Asad

JN162039 Damasacus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 16 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Damascus--President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1945 today Portuguese Communist Party Secretary General Alvaro Cunhal, Comrade Dr Fawwaz Sayyagh, head of the Ba'th Party National Command foreign relations office, attended the meeting.

Comrade 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, member of the Ba'th Party National and Regional Commands, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received the Portuguese Communist Party delegation led by Cunhal at 1730 today. The meeting was attended by Comrade Dr Fawwaz Sayyagh. During this meeting, talks were held on the current situation in the Middle East region and the relations of cooperation between the two parties and ways to promote them.

Talks Reported

JN162147 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 16 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Damascus--President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1945 today Portuguese Communist Party Secretary General Alvaro Cunhal. Comrade Dr Fawwaz Sayyagh, head of the Ba'th Party National Command foreign relations office, attended the meeting. Mahmud al-Ayyubi, Ba'th Party National Command member and Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad, Ba'th Party Regional Command member and information minister, then joined the meeting.

Comrade Cunhal talked about the situation in Portugal and about the activities of the Portuguese Communist Party. President Hafiz al-Asad then talked about the developments and accomplishments achieved in Syria under the 8 March revolution and the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

The president explained to the guest the circumstances facing our country and our region as a result of the fierce imperialist-Zionist-reactionary onslaught, which is linked with the Camp David scheme that is aimed at imposing U.S.-Zionist hegemony over the region. The president stressed that with its masses, the revolution in Syria is strong and that Syria is determined to stand fast and topple the hostile schemes. The guests had dinner with the president.

MINISTER MAKES STATEMENT AFTER TOUR OF 11 AFRICAN STATES

JN162049 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 16 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Damascus--Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs and head of the Arab ministerial delegation, has asserted that the African heads of state have praised Syria's steadfastness in the face of the imperialist, Zionist and racist forces and said that this steadfastness will achieve the further cohesion and solidarity of the African peoples and their alliances with the Arab people in order to achieve victory for the just Arab cause, particularly the issue of Palestine.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent today, Ash-Shar' said: We have sensed a unanimous stand by the African presidents to condemn the Camp David accords and their illegitimacy, especially since these accords are in conflict with the resolutions of the OAU, the United Nations, the nonalined states and the Islamic conferences.

Ash-Shar' added that the African presidents are concerned over As-Sadat's signing of a unilateral peace treaty with Israel and his total disregard of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights to self-determination, repatriation and establishment of their independent state on their national soil under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative. He said that the African presidents expressed confidence that the Egyptian people will be able to encounter the Zionist offensive and expansion.

It will be recalled that Ash-Shar' returned to Damascus last night after having led the Arab ministerial delegation in implementation of the 10th Arab summit resolution. During the tour, he visited 11 African states: Niger, Mali Senegal, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Benin, Upper Volta, Togo, Cape Verde Islands, Zambia and Guinea-Bissau.

The tour was aimed at conveying verbal messages from the Arab heads of state to the African presidents. These messages explain the recent developments in the Middle East, particularly since the signing of the Camp David accords, the opening of borders and the normalization of relations between the Egyptian regime and the Zionist entity. The tour also aimed at explaining the repercussions of these agreements, not only on the Arab nation, but also on the African peoples. In addition, it aimed at listening to the African presidents' suggestions in this respect for the purpose of promoting and developing relations.

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD ADDRESSES STUDENTS MEETING 17 MAR

JN172019 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Mar 80 JN

[Speech by President Hafiz al-Asad on 17 March at the General Emergency Conference of the Syrian Students National Federation in Damascus--recorded]

[Excerpts] God is great. What do I see? [applause] I see a revolution against injustice, despotism and reaction. [applause] I can see in every face of you, my sons the students, the face of Khalid Ibn al-Walid [Arab military commander]. I can see in every face of you, my beloved daughters the students, the face of glorious Al-Khansa' [a Muslim woman struggler] God is great. These are our students, our young men and young women. [applause] There are our people.

So where are the people's enemies? [applause] Where are the cowardly criminals, the enemies of this people? This is our great and glorious people. So where are their enemies? This is our proud people. So where are their agent enemies?

Our people are listening to us and know that I am meeting with this large and dear public, the university people, the faithful, struggling and educated people who fight for the freedom and future of the homeland. [applause]

We are working and building. Reactionaries, how do you justify your actions? There is no meeting point between nationalism and reaction. You want to weaken the economy of the country, to weaken the country politically and militarily and have the country kneel down to the foreigner's schemes and make it capitulate. With this confusion and disorder, you will be able to regain your positions of command through which you will lead this country for your colonialist masters toward a course that will serve these masters' supreme interests. These are your objectives and that is what you are intending to do.

Otherwise, why did you concentrate on burning consumer establishments in more than one city? Why did you concentrate on burning consumer establishments? These establishments are the people's property and not the property of one individual. They have been estab - lished with the people's money. Why are you burning the people's properties? The consumer establishments do not represent the police, the security forces, the army, the party.

Why are you doing all this? Because the United States wants this. The United States, my sons, does not want us to build our country. The United States does not want us to achieve progress, to improve our standard of living. It does not want us to improve our cultural standard. The United States does not want us to build our military strength and have a principled and constant policy. If the United States succeeds in achieving such an objective, then we shall only be a sick and emaciated body which will collapse at every blow and will give in to every capitulation, such as Camp David and anything else that might take place after the Camp David such as Camp Shamir, Camp Ha'im and another Camp David.

What is important to the United States is that the camp should be Hebrew. My sons, we are facing a U.S.-Israeli aggression through their reactionary tools. Naturally, all of us, with you my sons in the forefront, will confront this aggression. [applause] It is natural that we confront this aggression. [applause] We will confront this aggression. [applause] We will confront this U.S.-Israeli aggression and its reactionary tools. This aggression will inevitably backfire on its engineers and on those who are carrying it out.

This U.S. aggression is not the only one. The United States is launching continuous aggression against us. The U.S. aggression is continuous against our people and country. Who is occupying our land? We ask who is occupying our land? It is Israel with U.S. weapons. Who is displacing our people? It is Israel with U.S. weapons. Who is displacing our people? It is Israel with U.S. weapons. Who enables Israel to keep the occupied land? It is U.S. weapons. Who is constantly and continuously giving Israel sophisticated weapons? It is the United States. Who has forced As-Sadat to throw himself in the lap of Israel? It is the United States. Who is encouraging As-Sadat to deviate from the Arab nation and to deepen the rift in the Arab nation? It is the United States. Therefore, who is launching continued aggression against us? It is the United States. Who is the real enemy of our people? It is the United States. But who is the final victor? It is our nation and people. It is definitely you. [applause]

Nevertheless, the great objectives can hardly be achieved. The great objectives need great citizens. The great objectives need great strugglers. The great objectives need peoples, great with their aspirations and nobility. Our people are these people, and our nation is that great and big nation. [applause] Our great party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, [applause] and our hero people will continue to always remain lofty. [applause]

Our sons and daughters, we pin great hopes on you. You are the enlightened pioneers who believe in and completely absorb the nation's problems. You should valiantly confront the reactionary. You should confront the United States. [applause] Let us all proceed together hand-in-hand in order to build a homeland where there is no place for exploitation and reaction. [applause] Let us proceed together and let us build a country that will work for the sake of unity. Let us build a country where the banner of progress and socialism can be lofty. [applause] My sons, I repeat that what I see has almost rendered me speechless because what I have seen and what I see now is beyond description. [applause] Greetings to all our students. My love to all our students. Victory is yours. Peace be with you.

LIBYA

BULGARIA'S ZHIVKOV DEPARTS, SEEN OFF BY AL-QADHDHAFI

LD141402 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The leader of the revolution and the Bulgarian leader, Todor Zhivkov, first secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party and chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, held a long closed meeting this morning at the People's Palace in Tripoli. Todor Zhivkov and the accompanying delegation left Tripoli this morning at the end of the cordial 4-day visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. At Tripoli international airport he was seen off by the brother leader of the revolution as well as brothers Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, Lt Col Mustafa al-Kharrubi and Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi.

At Tripoli international airport the Bulgarian chairman made a statement to the reporters in which he underlined the great achievements realized by the great al-Fatah revolution in all fields. He said: I would like to point out that we have sensed the important achievements which have transformed the Jamahiriyah entirely into a workshop where the Libyan Arab people, under the leadership of Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, are making great achievements and firmly establishing the people's democracy and socialism.

The Bulgarian chairman expressed his profound satisfaction with the warmth of the reception accorded to him. He described the talks and the meetings he had with the brother the leader of the revolution as extremely fruitful, and said the joint statement will reflect these successes. In conclusion Chairman Zhivkov stressed that Bulgaria will do its utmost for the deepening of relations of friendship and cooperation which have been consolidated further in this visit.

The leader of the revolution spoke to the press delegation accompanying the guest chairman and described this visit as important and extremely successful, and said it will consolidate the friendship and cooperation between our two countries. He said: On this occasion I would like to convey my greetings to the friendly Bulgarian people. In conclusion the leader of the revolution said that understanding and joint cooperation will be reflected in the joint statement which will be issued about this visit.

Agreements Signed

ID141616 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1535 GMT 14 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli--Abu Zayd 'Umar Durdah, secretary of the General People's Committee for the Economy, and Mr Lukanov, candidate member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Politburo and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Bulgarian People's Republic, this morning at Tripoli international airport signed an agreement to strengthen and develop bilateral economic, scientific and technical cooperation.

The joint cooperation agreement includes the setting-up of a joint company for the keeping and breeding of sheep, and a joint company for building greenhouses. In the oil sphere an exploration and oil production contract has been signed between the national petroleum establishment and Bulgargeomin. An agreement also has been reached on the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. In the commercial sphere the agreement provides for an increase in commercial cooperation and exchange.

Joint Communique

LD151625 Tripoli JANA in English 0952 GMT 15 Mar 80 LD

["Joint Libyan Arab-Bulgarian Communique"--JANA headline]

[Text] March 15, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Following the cordial visit by Todor Zhivkov, first secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party and president of the State Council, a joint Libyan Arab-Bulgarian communique was issued in both Tripoli and Sofia yesterday evening. The following is the text:

Upon an official invitation by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the grand al-Fatah revolution, His Excellency President Todor Zhivkov the first secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party and president of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, paid a cordial and official visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah from March 11-14, 1980.

The Bulgarian president was warmly received by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and the Libyan Arab people, reflecting the solidarity of existing friendship between the two peoples. The Bulgarian president visited several economic projects and historic sights and acquainted himself with the achievements of the Libyan Arab peoples. He was met most hospitably everywhere he went.

The two leaders held talks in a cordial atmosphere of understanding and friendship, each leader in turn acquainted the other of the achievements attained by his country. They discussed existing bilateral relations and ways of developing and strengthening them. They exchanged points of view on international affairs of joint interest paying special concern to the Palestinian question.

President Zhivkov paid tribute to the great achievements attained by the Libyan Arab people towards the objectives of the grand al-Fatah revolution. This is shown by the implementation of direct democracy and the achievement of people's authority. He praised the role played by the Jamahiriyah in the achievement of Arab unity and in the struggle against imperialism, neo-colonialism, racism and Zionism.

The Bulgarian president condemned imperialist and (?reactionary) threats against the Jamahiriyah. He asserted Bulgaria's stand by the Libyan Arab people in the face of such threats.

The Libyan Arab side expressed appreciation for the support offered by Bulgaria and the socialist bloc to the Jamahiriyah against colonialist and reactionary aggression. Colonel al-Qadhdhafi expressed his great appreciation for the Bulgarian people's success in adopting advanced socialism and a consistent and constructive policy aiming to achieve peace, security and cooperation not only in the Balkan region, but in Europe and the world at large. Colonal al-Qadhdhafi expressed his appreciation of the significance of the 1,300th anniversary of the establishment of the Bulgarian state, an event to be celebrated by Bulgaria next year.

The two leaders spoke of their gratefulness for the continued promotion of bilateral relations begun with an earlier communique signed in Tripoli on 25 March 1976 to promote bilateral cooperation and mutual friendship.

They expressed their eagerness to increase and develop joint cooperation beneficial to the two sides. They stressed the importance of maintaining contacts with the objective of strengthening bilateral relations and to conduct talks at definite intervals and at all levels to discuss issues concerning the two sides.

The two leaders reviewed the implementation of economic, scientific and technological cooperation agreements concluded in Sofia on 20th June 1978 to promote cooperation from 1981 until 1985. This agreement, they pointed out, constitutes a sound basis for increasing cooperation between the two countries. A positive review was carried out involving the activities of the Libyan Arab-Bulgarian committee for economic, scientific and technological cooperation. The two heads of state pointed out that agreements and cooperation have increased remarkably during the last few years and that the rapid progress of the Jamahiriyah and Bulgarian people would offer ample opportunities to increase this cooperation both in quality and quantity. With this in mind, they requested the Libyan Arab-Bulgarian committee for economic, scientific and technological cooperation and all planning bodies to draw up a specific programme to expand this cooperation in line with the two countries' development plans as of 1981 until 1985 and to give new impetus and a new stable framework for economic relations with special emphasis on the following fields of cooperation: Agriculture, irrigation, industrialisation of agricultural products, construction and industrial buildup, storage, other means of trade, the setting up of public health establishments, the supply of transport equipment, tourism, communication, exchange of technical expertise and training. The objective of this cooperation is to bring trade between the two countries to required standard by 1985. The two leaders reviewed the current international situation, expressing their satisfaction at having identical views concerning the main international issues. They expressed their determination to spare no efforts in bringing about peace and security all over the world, disarmament, and detente and to end the arms race and tension.

The two leaders expressed their deep concern towards increasing international tension recently, and the policies adopted by imperialist and reactionary forces escalating the arms race, and their continuous interference in the internal affairs of other countries. They declared their determination to continue the struggle in cooperation with progressive anti-colonialist and peace loving forces in order to reinforce defence and maintain the security and peace of the world.

They stressed the right of peoples to defend their freedom and support their own choices. The two sides referred to the necessity of taking active measures for disarmament, and maintain the principles of equality in rights and security.

They showed particular interest in the dangerous developments that took place recently in the Arab region, and declared their condemnation of the Stable David accords, and the separate agreements which the Egyptian regime signed with the Zionist entity, and the normalization of relations between them, which poses danger to the basic interests of the Arab nation. They condemned the tripartite talks held by the Egyptian regime, the Zionist entity and the United States on so-called Palestinian self-autonomy, for giving a form of legality to (Israeli) occupation and settlement in the Arab lands being occupied by the Zionist entity.

They expressed their concern towards the imperialist attempts to divide the Arab people and lead them through the path of surrender. They affirmed their belief that the Arab progressive forces will foil all these attempts.

The two leaders expressed their belief that the just and peaceful settlement of the Palestinian cause cannot be achieved except through the full and unconditional withdrawal of (Israel) from all occupied lands and without the realization of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right of self-determination and the establishment of their independent state in their land. They also expressed their belief that no settlement could be reached in the area without the participation of all concerned parties including the Palestinian people.

The two sides praised the stands of the front of confrontation and steadfastness which was established in Tripoli and its anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist resolutions. They expressed their hope that Arab efforts be directed towards the implementation of these resolutions.

They expressed their belief that the positioning of the imperialist forces in the Arab Gulf and the Indian Ocean and the military threats constitute threats not only to the freedom and independence of the peoples of the Arab area and Southeast Asia, but also to the peace and security of the world as a whole. They strongly denounced the designs of the USA and its construction of aggressive regimes in the Arab region and Southwest Asia in order to strike at national liberation movements and exploit the natural resources of the countries of the region.

The two sides denounced the brutal campaign launched by imperialism exploiting the events of Afghanistan to find a foothold in the Arab region. In this context they denounced the imperialist attempts to intervene in the internal affairs of Southwest Asia. They affirmed their respect for the will of the Afghan people and they affirmed their support for their independent progressive revolution.

The two leaders expressed their determination to support the just struggle waged by the people of Namibia and Zimbabwe and greeted the victory of the Zimbabwean Patriotic Front in the elections. They declared opposition to all forms of manoeuvers by imperialism and racism to obstruct the establishment of a free independent state in Zimbabwe. They furthermore insisted on the need for the unconditional withdrawal of the South African forces from the land they illegally occupy in Namibia and for the need for the implementation of UN resolutions in this respect to achieve the independence of this African state. They denounced the racist policy pursued by the South African regime towards its independent neighbouring state. They announced their determination for the need to liquidate colonialism and racism.

They stressed the necessity to seek a solution for the issue of the Western Sahara according to the United Nations resolutions, including the right of its people to self-determination. They also condemned imperialist intervention in the affairs of the African Continent, especially against its independent states to obstruct their progressive advance and national independence.

Both sides support the initiatives of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia which aim at developing the links of neighbourhood, and cooperation among the South Asian countries calling for peace and security in the region.

The two sides welcomed the steps taken by the socialist countries to ease military tension and disarmament in Europe, and they gave special interest to the necessity of applying the spirit of the final decisions of the European Cooperation and Security conference which was held in Helsinki, as a long-term programme for all countries that participated. They expressed their hope that the forthcoming conference of Berlin would be held in a constructive atmosphere, and achieve the expected results. In this course they expressed their concern towards the attempts made by the reactionary forces to increase military tension in Europe, by their agreement to build and use American nuclear medium-range missiles in central Europe.

The two leaders agreed to transform the Mediterranean Sea into a peaceful zone of cooperation and dismantling foreign military bases. They stressed that European security is closely linked to the security of the Mediterranean Sea.

The two leaders expressed the importance of the non-aligned movement in lessening tension in the world and in its struggle against neo-colonialism and racism for the consolidation of national independence, peace and social progress. They pointed particularly to the non-aligned movement's effort to establish a new economic order which would reconstruct international relations on the basis of justice and equality in rights, and which will end discrimination in international trade and respect the right of all nations to control their natural resources.

The communique attached importance for the need to reconstruct international relations in the mass media in order to liquidate media monopolies and to disseminate true information about the countries concerned.

The Libyan Arab side praised the role played by the socialist block in the maintenance and consolidation of peace, disarmament, harmony, and in promoting international cooperation, the just Arab cause together with that of the newly independent and developing countries and of national liberation movements.

The two sides expressed strong belief that the basis and unity of action amongst progressive Arab forces and their friendship and cooperation with the socialist bloc has been of great significance. They are, therefore, determined to participate in developing cooperation between the socialist bloc and developing and non-aligned countries.

The two sides thought highly of the results of the visit by President Zhivkov of Bulgaria to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and noted its contribution to the improvement and consolidation of bilateral cooperation.

President Todor Zhivkov of Bulgaria, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and president of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, expressed his gratitude to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the Libyan Arab people for the generous hospitality he received during his visit. He called on Colonel al-Qadhdhafi to visit him officially in return. The invitation was accepted, but no date has been appointed as yet.

AL-QADHDHAFI SPEAKS ON NATURE OF PEOPLE'S AUTHORITY

LD141022 Tripoli JANA in English 0755 GMT 14 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 26 March, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the revolution affirmed that he is confident that the people can lead themselves by themselves.

He said: "The people's authority cannot turn to chaos. If the masses are sure that they own authority and they are free, then they will respect this authority and shoulder the responsibility of freedom, and will behave in a way that will not harm their interests and future and will take wise and positive resolutions."

The leader said: "The peoples will has been positively assured through the initiative of the masses of the people's congresses which changed the administrative map of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah by perfect people's resolutions. This was strengthened by the amalgamation of municipalities and branch municipalities."

In his speech today in which he incited the masses to affirm and strengthen their masses, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi greeted the people's congresses which reached this degree of awareness and responsibility and which can determine for themselves and take very important decision. The speech was transmitted by radio and television.

He affirmed that this is the answer to any one who is doubtful about the people's will because the people are ruled without a government and that people's power was established without an outsider and superviser, the people being the supervisers and the masters of themselves.

He elaborated that there is no need for any mandate on the masses or to speak on their behalf he affirmed that the masses realized their interests and took the necessary measures which suit them. He added that the more positive and correct resolution are adopted by the people's congresses, the more the people's will and the masses confidence are consolidated.

He explained that in the case where the masses adopted wrong decisions the result would be negative and would weaken the popular will, a matter which forces the masses to seek a leadership, and thus dictatorship returns.

He said: "I always trust the masses. The decisions of the inhabitants of the municipalities that integrated are nothing but evidence of the popular will which is enforced and the people's authority which is confirmed day by day."

He added that these decisions refute and dismiss the justifications of the governments which dominate their peoples under the pretext that they are not capable of governing themselves and that they need dictators to govern them all the time. In this respect he explained that these styles date back to the pre-Jamahiriyah period, being violent and oppressive styles which will eventually bring about the revolt of the masses in a popular revolution to be instigated by the revolutionary committees everywhere. He went on to say that if the revolution succeeded in Libya then it would encourage the peoples to make a revolution thus putting an end to the era of dictatorship and starting the era of the masses.

The leader affirmed that the masses are urged for more awareness which makes the people's congresses take perfect and positive resolutions which leads to more administrative organization and which increases the human financial and administrative efforts. He noticed that the former great number of municipalities contributed to the shattering of efforts and of human, financial and administrative abilities.

He pointed out that some municipalities have less dense population, and less capabilities because of the refusal of educated people to stay in them. He questioned: "How do we, as people, depend upon such poor municipalities explain that such municipalities will bring in weak people in terms of qualifications and expertise to be assigned the duties of 17 qualitative people's committees.

He added that these committees will fail in their duties as a result of the weakness of those who supervise them. He went on to say that this does not mean we are doubtful of the ordinary persons and his capability for self-determination, and affirmed that this human being is the deciding body in the people's congress. But the problem he said is the absence of the human being to implement such resolution, on order words the administrative person and the technician which lead to the obstruction of the masses interests adopted by the people's congresses.

He added: "When the General People's Congress meets, we find that the budget is distributed among 44 municipalities and that each one needs balanced budget, offices for the people's committees and 17 qualitative people's committees. Each one also needs to be followed up thoroughly with transport and administrative affairs of its own.

He explained that the great number of municipalities, which existed during the foregone era was a result of tribal favouritism, bribery and resort for influential people, which created an unjustified number of municipalities.

He pointed out that the people's congresses during its session last year have entrusted the General People's Committee with implementing the decisions of the people's congresses for the integration of municipalities, but the General People's Committee fell short of expectations in this respect, and was not encouraged before the popular will which was at that time unaware and selfish. But now, after the popular will has become conscious, and assumed its responsibilities, the contrary was clear. Then the people's congresses decided to integrate the municipalities.

The leader of the revolution again hailed the people's congresses which decided the integration and said that by doing so they have appreciated their own and the country's interest as whole. These decisions would have positive consequences in implementing the projects in the fields of housing, agriculture, telecommunications, education and health.

Concerning the administrative, financial and human situation which results from the amalgamation of these municipalities, the leader explained that the amalgamation of these municipalities is a very important achievement which will positively affect the [word indistinct] budget, the projects and the human force.

He pointed out that the masses started to feel that they really rule and that there is no government upon which they will depend. He said that the initiative of the people's congresses was a positive act which bewildered many people as the transformation was really positive, not negative as in former times.

He added that the masses realized that the negative direction is wrong and will not serve their future. He pointed out that the call of the masses for the change of the branch municipality into a municipality and the change of the stage into a branch municipality leads to administrative expansion which may affect the budget and projects, affect the concentration of expertise, and the limited human capabilities whether in terms of population or the existing capabilities. The leader of the revolution moved on to speak about the promotion of the general people's secretariats and explained that the method which dominated previously had no major problem and the matters are in harmony with one another.

He said there is only one remark: Both the secretary of the people's congress and the assistant secretary must be selected by the masses of the people's congress directly, and not by the secretariat of the congress, whereby the secretary selected by his own secretariat finds it difficult to run this secretariat because it has selected him. He pointed out that the experiment is still the same and gains a spontaneous movement which dispels the mistake and produces the solution, because the basis is "no democracy without people's congresses". This is the sound basis, with no alternative, for establishment of the people's authority.

He stressed the necessity for the participation of the students in the people's congresses and their presence as an influential power in these congresses. He referred to the necessity that the student in the secondary and higher stages should have the membership of the basic people's congress he belongs to.

He also stressed the necessity for an effective women's participation in the basic people's congresses and said that the revolutionary committees should encourage women to take part in the people's congresses and practise power. He went on to say that women are not different from men and both are human beings. So women should play a political and an administrative role. They are also entitled to take part in the secretariats of the people's congresses and committees.

He pointed out that membership cards of the basic people's congresses should be provided and distributed to the female students and to all the sectors who were previously deprived from it. At the end of his speech he expressed his confidence in the masses to rule themselves and to have determination to lead the way to consolidate people's power. He finally said: "We are determined to incite the masses to practise the people's power and no retreat from people's power is possible."

YAR FOREIGN MINISTER MAKKI ENDS VISIT

ID170916 Tripoli JANA in English 0800 GMT 17 Mar 80 ID

[Text] Tripoli, March 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The Yemen Arab Republic's Deputy Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Hasan Makki left Tripoli yesterday afternoon after ending a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah during which he delivered a letter to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi from the Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Mr Makki expressed satisfaction for his visit which enabled him to inspect the giant accomplishments of the Libyan Arab people through their revolution in various fields. He said his visit is an important step in the development of bilateral relations and for coordination and the exchange of views regarding the situation in the Arab region.

MAURITANIA

GOVERNMENT 'MAINTAINS NEUTRALITY' IN SAHARAN CONFLICT

AB171040 Nouakchott CHAAB in French 10 Mar 80 pp 1, 8 AB

[Text] In an interview granted to the AFP special envoy in Bamako, Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the CMSN [Military Committee for National Salvation], head of state and government, answered many questions relating to the declaration of the POLISARIO Front reiterating the commitments made in the Algiers accord, the visit of a delegation of the POLISARIO Front to Nouakchott and the relations between Morocco and Mauritania.

Replying to a journalist who asked him for his position on the declaration published on 5 March last by the POLISARIO Front about respecting the accord, the CMSN chairman declared: "First, I would like to remind you that a few days after the signing of the Algiers accord, Morocco illegally invaded the town of Dakhla where its troops were numerically superior to ours. Facing this situation, Mauritania had to choose between opposing the Moroccan move militarily or withdrawing. In order to maintain peace for its people, Mauritania chose to pull out while denouncing this aggression against its administration before all international organizations and asking them to shoulder their responsibility; for it was these very same organizations which entrusted Mauritania with the administration of the territory, whose population has not yet freely chosen its destiny."

During the same period, the head of state went on, Mauritania has got in touch with the POLISARIO Front in order to study the situation which was created. Mauritania has chosen a position of neutrality on the Saharan conflict for a long time. All sides, including the POLISARIO Front and Morocco, must understand our position and help us maintain it in the interest of the region and of peace throughout the Maghreb, Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala declared.

Bringing up the fate of the Mauritanian prisoners detained by the POLISARIO Front and in reply to a question by the special envoy who wanted to know if the issue had been discussed with the visiting delegation of the POLISARIO Front, the head of state said that this problem must surely be solved, though it is not connected to the Algiers accord which provides for contacts between the POLISARIO and us concerning this issue. The situation, he pointed out, has so far not permitted these contacts. The head of state pointed out that the visit of a delegation of the POLISARIO to Nouakchott will provide the first opportunity for direct contacts. Mauritanian prisoners are held by the POLISARIO just as POLISARIO prisoners are held by Mauritania. Therefore, the head of state said, it is a problem between the POLISARIO and Mauritania which must be solved.

Questioned on the subject of relations with Morocco, the head of state stated that Mauritania wishes to establish trusting and fraternal relations with Morocco, a neighboring brother country. This implies mutual respect for the sovereignty of each of the two states, he added.

Mauritania has definitively quit the Saharan war and will not engage in it again, the head of state said, before adding: I hope Morocco understands our position and accepts it in the interest of our two countries and of peace in the region. If such is the case Mauritania is willing to strengthen its relations with Morocco, as in the past.

Talking finally about Mauritania's position on the issues discussed at the Bamako conference, the head of state declared: "We have never opposed the creation of an organization of Saharan states, nor the signing of an accord of good neighborliness and nonaggression. However, we believe that these questions must be thought out thoroughly. We must get to know one another, meet again and achieve harmony before setting up a structured organization," the head of state concluded.

HAYDALA NOTES SUPPORT FOR AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION

AB161120 Nouakchott CHAAB in French 11 Mar 80 pp 1, 8 AB

[Text] Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, president of the Military Committee for National Salvation, head of state and government has said that he will go on an official visit to Algeria this year in reply to an invitation of President Chadli Bendjedid. In a statement to the Algerian television on Mauritania's participation in the Bamako conference, the head of state said "that this participation highlights the place of our country and its role in the Arab fatherland and in Africa."

"Mauritania," he said, "is an active champion of Arab-African cooperation, and is constantly working to bring these two complementary worlds closer together."

"Mauritania," President Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala went on, "has enormous potential which it is ready to use in favor of mutually profitable cooperation with all brotherly and friendly countries, in particular with the Saharan countries." "We rejoice over this cooperation and wish it to be strengthened," he said.

In reply to a question relating to his talks with President Chadli Bendjedid, the president said that these talks touched particularly on the strengthening of bilateral relations.

MOROCCO

RABAT REPORTS MILITARY OPERATION IN OUED TIGZERT

LD172047 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Recently the Moroccan Royal Armed Forces carried out clean-up operations in the area of Oued Tigzert moving west to east, and also on the route leading from Angab to Zak, in order to destroy the bunkers to which the mercenaries had infiltrated. During these operations, our Royal Armed Forces inflicted heavy losses in men and equipment on the enemy. The Moroccan Royal Air Force intervened and destroyed scores of enemy mechanized units. The clean-up operations are at the moment engaged in chasing the mercenaries and following them back to their starting points.

It has been observed throughout these battles that the mercenaries used the most modern and most sophisticated equipment. Furthermore, there are elements among the gangs of mercenaries which do not belong to the region.

ENERGY MINISTER RECEIVES ROMANIAN DEPUTY MINISTER

LD172327 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Mar 80 LD

[Summary] Energy Minister Moussa Saadi this evening received in audience the Romanian deputy minister of mines, petroleum and geology, who was accompanied by an important delegation. The meeting is in line with the cooperation between the two countries in the energy and mining field, especially with regard to oil exploration, exploiting of energy materials and equipping of new lines. The visit comes 3 months after the signing of the protocol of the second session of the Joint Ministerial Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation, which met in Rabat in December.

BOUCETTA BRIEFS EEC AMBASSADORS ON FOREIGN POLICY

LD180054 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 17 Mar 80 LD

[Excerpts] Within the framework of contacts between the minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation and EEC ambassadors, the Italian ambassador to Morocco, Mr Francesco Mezzalam, in his capacity as chairman of the EEC group in Morocco, gave a luncheon today in honor of Mr M'hamed Moucetta. Attending were the ambassadors of Denmark, Belgium, West Germany, Britain and Holland, the French charge d'affaires and some assistants of the minister of state.

In connection with the tension that exists in northwest Africa, the minister of state explained that the aggressions to which Morocco was being exposed in its southern regions, including the pre-1975 liberated areas, are only a part of a comprehensive plan designed to create a state of instability and domination--whether it was a matter concerning Afghanistan or the Tunisian town of Qafsah or elsewhere. On this occasion, Mr Boucetta stressed Morocco's firm determination to maintain its steadfastness and to make more sacrifices in order to defend its sovereignty, its territorial integrity, its entity and sanctity, regardless of the cost.

The minister of state paid special attention to the resolutions of the second session of the Jerusalem Committee, which met in Marrakesh under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Hassan II. He paid tribute to the positive attitude adopted by his holiness the pope regarding the issue of Jerusalem--the attitude which the pope expressed in his address to the UN General Assembly during its last session. He also praised the attitude recently adopted by French President Giscard d'Estaing toward the Palestinian issue, which he expressed during his visit to a number of the Middle East countries. He also noted the positive developments that have been reflected in the attitudes of some of the EEC members recently.

The discussion also dealt with the resolutions of the extraordinary session of the Islamic Congress Organization, which was held in Islamabad at the end of last January, about Afghanistan. In connection with this particular point, Mr Boucetta explained that the good relations which exist between Morocco and the Soviet Union and also the positive attitudes of the Soviet Union toward the Arab and Palestinian cause are not such as to prevent the adoption of a clear attitude toward the Soviet intervention in an Islamic country with which we have relations of solidarity at the Islamic level and also at the level of the nonalined movement. The minister of state expressed the hope that the attitude of the EEC countries would become clearer so as to contribute to finding a solution that will be in line with the aspirations of the Muslim people of Afghanistan.

IRAQ, MOROCCO PLEDGE RENEWED SUPPORT FOR 'ARAB STRUGGLE'

JN141456 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 14 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 14 March--Morocco has reaffirmed its support and blessings for President Saddam Husayn's national declaration. This came in a press statement issued here and in Rabat today at the end of Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan's visit to Morocco.

The two countries stressed the need to continue struggle and joint action, in order to regain the usurped rights of the Arab nation and to realize its desired unity. They asserted their firm stand on the Palestinian issue, which is the core of the Arabs' struggle against Zionism. The two countries emphasized that Zionism constitutes a cultural, economic, political and economic threat menacing the Arab nation's fate. They stressed their adherence to the principles approved by the Arab summit conferences concerning the Palestinian issue. They undertook to continue their efforts to implement these resolutions seriously and completely.

The two countries reviewed the current Arab situation, its possible developments and their impact on the Arab nation's sovereignty and its national security, particularly following the normalization of relations between the Egyptian and Zionist regimes. They stressed their commitment to the principles of the Arab League, the Islamic Congress and the nonalined movement, expressing their determination to continue their work to achieve their objectives. The press statement points out that the two sides also reviewed relations between the two countries, as well as current Arab and international issues.

SUDAN

STATE MINISTERS TAKE CONSTITUTIONAL OATH 15 MAR

JN151457 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 15 March--Three new ministers of state took the constitutional oath before President Ja'far Numayri today. These ministers are: Dr Muhammad 'Uthman Abu Saq, minister of state at the Culture and Information Ministry; Dr 'Abd ar-Rahman 'Abd al-Wahhab, minister of state at the Ministry of Finance and National Economy; and Mirghandi Muhammad Ahmad, minister of state at the National Planning Ministry.

PRESIDENT NUMAYRI LEAVES FOR SAUDI ARABIA 15 MAR

JN151456 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 15 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 15 March--President Numayri left for Jidda at 1500 today at the beginning of a tour that will take him to Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar.

The president is accompanied by a high-ranking delegation, which comprises Ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr, vice president and foreign minister; Zayn al-'Abidin Muhamad Ahmad, secretary of presidential affairs and socialist union organizational affairs; Maj Gen 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib, chief of the State Security Department; Engineer Nasr ad-Din Mustafa, minister of national planning; Dr Baha' ad-Din Idris, minister of presidential affairs; and Muhammad Mahjub Sulayman, President Numayri's press adviser.

TUNISIA

BOURGUIBA RECEIVES NEW ITALIAN, PAKISTANI ENVOYS

LD141053 [Editorial Report LD] Tunis L'ACTION in French on 5 March carries on page 4 a 300-word report on audiences granted by Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba to foreign diplomats during which the new Italian Ambassador to Tunisia Gianfranco Farinelli and the new Pakistani Ambassador to Tunisia (Ezzat Hayat Khan Sardar) presented their credentials.

UN AMBASSADOR RECALLED FOR CONSULTATIONS ON SETTLEMENTS

TA160520 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 16 Mar 80 TA

[Text] The Israeli UN ambassador will arrive in Israel this week for consultations. Israel's position toward the debate on the Palestinians at the Security Council next week will be consolidated in the consultations. The well-known Security Council resolution condemning the settlements and the U.S. support of it will also be discussed.

BEGIN COMMENTS ON U.S. SUPPORT, SOVEREIGNTY, SYRIA

No Erosion of Support

NC171738 Paris AFP in English 1725 GMT 17 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Paris, March 17 (AFP)--There is no erosion of United States support for Israel, Prime Minister Menahem Begin told the French newspaper LE MONDE in an interview today.

"I do not see any truly worrisome signs, the Israeli leader said. "There are moments when we are very criticized and others when we receive total approval. I think that we still have solid support from Jews and Christians, and I am convinced that this is the case also among the French population."

Mr. Begin was questioned about Washington's decision not to increase aid it Israel, the result of which makes economic and military aid to Egypt take on greater proportions. He did not feel that this implied an eventual shift in American policies.

"After the peace treaty, I recommended, in New York, that American businessmen come and invest in Israel, but also in Egypt, the prime minister said. "Egypt has a great need for help, and it seems right to me that the United States respond to this need."

Regarding Israeli, anxiety about delivery of sophisticated American arms to Saudi Arabia and Egypt, Mr. Begin noted that Saudi Arabia "is hostile to Israel and one doesn't know what might happen tomorrow. Look at what has happened in Iran, which had a massive concentration of modern arms furnished by the United States. It gives us much to think about."

Jerusalem 'Under Israeli Sovereignty'

TA171932 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Mar 80 TA

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Begin says he hopes the autonomy talks will be completed by May 26th. But if they are not, he says, Israel will go on negotiating. Jack Katzenel reports. [Begin recording]

[Katzenel] The prime minister was addressing the annual conference of the Association of American and Canadian Immigrants at Ma'alot in Galilee. He says that in the past month, several proposals had been made which contradicted the Camp David agreement. For example: The Egyptians demand that Jerusalem Arabs take part in the elections to the Administrative Council meant in effect the redivision of Jerusalem.

[Begin--In English] Jerusalem is the one city, the capital of Israel, completely under Israel sovereignty and indivisible. And indeed, may I tell you, that such is the city of Jerusalem: indivisible for all generations to come.

Situation in Syria

TA172022 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin visited in Ma'alot today and was asked to react on the situation in Syria. [begin videotape]

[Begin--in English] We don't want war with anybody. We undertook measures of caution in connection with movements of the Syrian Army in Lebanon and in Syria itself, but it never occurred to us to attack Syria, as Mr Gromyko said when he visited Damascus. There are three possibilities: to help to attack the Christians, whom we help to save themselves from the danger of being wiped out--I think they have the right to ask nations which don't do anything about it, that they should recognize the fact that the measure of gratitude to the only state is the little Jewish state which did help the Christian minority in Lebanon to save their lives; perhaps it may mean an attack on Israel; perhaps it may mean the withdrawing of forces in order to crush the rebellion which is going on in northern Syria. We cannot answer those questions. We cannot have such information. We have to undertake measures of caution because we mustn't be taken again by surprise. Never again a surprise. This is our clear policy, which gives us hope for the future, to live in this country in security and in peace and without bloodshed, to raise our children and children's children and to have [satisfaction] from them. For this policy we must all stand together. [end videotape]

BEGIN RECEIVES FRG MINISTER; COMMENTS ON EUROPEAN STAND

TA181056 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 18 Mar 80 TA

[Text] The prime minister said that the declarations by West European leaders about self-determination for the Palestinians are jeopardizing Middle East peace and encouraging Israel's enemies. At a meeting with FRG Research and Technology Minister Volker Hauff, Menahem Begin said that Europe should allow the negotiations to proceed without interfering.

The German minister replied that the instability in the Middle East harms Europe's security. He claimed that the FRG has long supported self-determination for the Palestinians and emphasized that Germany has no intention of taking steps before 26 May.

At the meeting, Menahem Begin once again said that 26 May is not the final date for the completion of the autonomy negotiations.

The meeting lasted 50 minutes. Later, the German minister went to visit Yad Vashem [memorial to the holocaust in Jerusalem].

EGYPT ACCEPTS ISRAEL'S DEMAND TO HASTEN AUTONOMY TALKS

TA170523 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 17 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Egypt agrees in principle with Israel's demand that the speed of the autonomy negotiations be accelerated, but says that more important than that is the political desire, as it terms it, to reach a satisfactory arrangement.

Cairo officials have said that this is Egypt's demand to a cable sent by Minister Burg, in which he suggested that the ministerial teams meet for 2 or 3 days every week, since 26 May is getting nearer. According to the Egyptian officials, Prime Minister Khalil replied in a cable that Egypt insists on its demand that a committee on security affairs be established within the framework of the autonomy talks.

The Egyptian newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says that in Khalil's reply cable, he blamed Israel for causing delays in the talks. The newspaper maintains that Khalil wrote Burg that Egypt has repeatedly demanded that the security affairs committee be established, but Israel had rejected it.

BURG ADDRESSES FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Criticizes Weizman, Dayan

TA171421 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Interior Minister Yosef Burg leveled criticism at Minister Weizman and former Minister Dayan for not participating in the autonomy talks. In a discussion by the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee Burg said, to use an understatement, that the negotiations did not benefit from their absence.

Abba Eban said that the negotiations were ably conducted in Camp David but it is the other way around in the autonomy negotiations.

Zalman Shovali suggested that the entire autonomy negotiations be started anew. Menahem Savidor claimed that the instructions given to Dr Burg are too rigid.

Remarks on European Initiative

TA171935 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 17 Mar 80 TA

[Text] The head of the autonomy ministerial team, Dr Yosef Burg, says that the new European initiative creates an uncomfortable atmosphere for the negotiations since it puts pressure on Israel, makes things difficult for Egypt and contradicts the Camp David accords.

In the coming Cabinet meeting Dr Burg will present the major bones of contention in the negotiations with Egypt and the Cabinet will have to decide on which issues it can meet the Egyptians halfway and on which issues it will insist on its views. Minister Burg talked in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee.

'Autonomy Negotiations Speeded Up'

TA171927 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Mar 80 TA

[Excerpt] The autonomy negotiations are going to be speeded up following an initiative by Israel's chief negotiator Yosef Burg. After briefing Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in the Knesset, Dr Burg spoke to reporter David Essing. [begin recording]

[Essing] Dr Burg says his proposal to speed up the negotiations has been accepted by both Egypt and the United States.

[Burg] The Americans said yes, the Egyptians were not opposed to this idea. We will see. We cannot only have plenaries. We meet also. We need the working groups, and this will work, I hope.

[Essing] Dr Burg says no specific date has been set yet for the next plenary session, but he believes that it will be some time next week. While there were differences on the issues, there was no disagreement over the peacemaking process itself between Israel, Egypt and the United States. Egypt and the United States were not trying to slow down the negotiations.

DISCUSSION CONTINUES ON EARLY ELECTIONS

Alinement Contacts NRP

TA171550 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Mar 80 TA

[Text] The Knesset Alinement faction authorized Shim'on Peres to carry on the talks regarding the possibility of advancing the general elections. Peres denied that he had promised anything to the NRP. According to him, the talks so far have been initiated by the NRP, and the issue of advancing the election was discussed in the course of those talks among other things, and was motivated by a national interest.

NRP Decision

TA171647 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 17 Mar 80 TA

[Text] By a majority of 10 to 2, the NRP faction decided not to hold a discussion on early elections today. The NRP faction has thus adopted Minister Hammer's proposal. Minister Hammer, who raised this proposal with the knowledge and approval of the three NRP ministers, said it is not nice that it will be precisely the NRP, as a coalition partner, that will be first to discuss early elections now. Our Knesset correspondent Moshe Hakohen reports on the session and the decision not to hold a discussion on early elections.

[Begin recording] The NRP dealt with the issue of early elections for 2 hours today. At the beginning of the meeting, in the name of the NRP ministers, Minister Hammer suggested that this issue not be discussed. Hammer said the question was one of timing and not of principle. A discussion now, after the media reports, will carry political significance, he said, and the NRP should not be the first body to discuss early elections.

There was special interest in the remarks of Dr Burg whose remarks on early elections and talks with Labor Party Chairman Peres were two of the major reasons for holding today's session. Dr Burg expressed his opposition to holding a discussion on early elections. Dr Burg spoke in hints. We should not be used by others, he said--possibly alluding to the Alinement. He added: One should think of the international repercussions caused by early elections on the eve of important political decisions and when our relations with the United States are being reassessed, not to mention the Alinement's euphoria induced by the 62 Knesset seats Dr Zemah's public opinion poll predicted it would receive.

Most of the NRP faction members supported this position. Dr Yehuda Ben-Me'ir, the head of the NRP Knesset faction, was left in the minority. The NRP, he said, should consider now whether to continue to bear responsibility for this government. This government, he added, has had no truer partner, not even in the Likud itself, but one should not avoid discussion and resolution, especially when so many NRP members demand this.

In conclusion, forming a majority, 10 of the faction members objected to a discussion while 2--Yehuda Ben-Me'ir and Avraham Melamed--were in favor. A proposal by MK David Glass to declare that the NRP is not initiating contacts for early elections was not discussed due to MK Ben-Me'ir's objection.

AFGHANISTAN

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS APPROVES 1980-81 BUDGET

ID171234 Kabul in Dari to Europe 1630 GMT 16 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The Council of Ministers of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] met yesterday at the Revolutionary Council's headquarters under the chairmanship of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the DRA. After discussing the DRA's income and expenditure for 1980-81 the Council of Ministers approved the following:

The DRA Council of Ministers points out that despite the fact that during 1979-80 our beloved country of Afghanistan suffered heavy economic blows because of the destructive activities and treacherous acts of internal and regional reaction, our noble people faced serious troubles as a result, and the state's economy was widely disrupted--despite all this, the DRA Government succeeded in preparing the 1980-81 annual state budget in time to be presented for the completion of the legal procedure. On this historic occasion the budget has been prepared without a deficit: State income will cover general expenditure without borrowing from the Bank of Afghanistan, which is deemed a very important step toward the improvement of the country's economic situation.

The DRA's 1980-81 budget, which has been planned and prepared by the Finance Ministry in cooperation with other ministries and government institutions in accordance with the outline of the economic and social development plan, which is based on anticipation of the maximum attraction of state income sources and on the development of and increase in production, the good use of allocations and savings in budget expenditure, and which has been planned and prepared for the purpose of economic development of social and cultural changes, the raising of the masses' living standards and the defense of the country and the Sawr Revolution's achievements, is approved as follows:

1. Income expected to total 33,759,085,000 afghanis, of which 23,478,000,000 afghanis is revenue from normal domestic income sources, 1,735,000,000 afghanis is aid granted in the form of consumer goods by the friendly USSR, and 8,546,085,000 afghanis is loans and project aid, most of which is again provided by loans and aid from the friendly USSR, is approved.

2. The general and total expenditure of 33,759,085,000 afghanis, of which 11,596,300,496 afghanis is the normal budget for government offices, 7,616,699,504 afghanis is for items indicated in the normal budget balance, and for the development budget 6,000,000,000 afghanis from domestic sources and 8,546,085,000 afghanis from Laos and project aid, is approved.

The income received from the considerable aid granted by the friendly USSR in order to meet the basic needs of the Afghan people, that is, wheat, sugar, clothing, textiles, fat and all other foodstuffs and many other items, for those areas of the country which have suffered loss, is approved as an appendix to the budget, since the receipt of these goods was not anticipated and it would constitute a major item in the coming year. No ministry or government organization which receives aid from friendly countries or from international sources is allowed to spend such aid directly outside the budget.

3. All ministries, government organs and local offices have a duty to take the necessary and effective steps to implement the 1980-81 budget, to realize and collect all revenue by the appointed time and to (?reduce taxes) and other income. The state economic discipline is to be strictly observed in order to make effective use of income and to (?finance) anticipated budget expenditure. A strict, constant and collective effort should be made to economize, to desist from those activities which have caused losses in government enterprises, to prevent chaos, to prohibit extravagant spending, and to struggle against corruption, abuse, of state property and the unnecessary employment of personnel in government organs.

4. The Finance Ministry is instructed to plan and organize the 1980-81 state expenditure in accordance with the budget rules and regulations and with the accepted (?standard) for tax payments so that all expenditure may be financed in time from the realized budget revenue. Ministries and government organs have a duty to arrange their expenditure on the basis of each quarterly allocation within the framework of the approved [word indistinct], consideration, fulfillment and implementation of the plan and actual expenditure in accordance with the allocation which they receive. The Finance Ministry is to pay out the quarterly allocation of each ministry and government organ once the ministry's accounts department receives a full report on the spending of the previous allocation.

5. The Finance Ministry has permission to take out, of necessary, a long-term quarterly loan in the form of an overdraft from the bank of Afghanistan and to try to repay this loan from its income in subsequent months. If income is not realized as envisaged and expenditure is not halted at the necessary level, thus upsetting the budget balance, the amount of the loan which remains outstanding despite effective measures for revenue collection is to be reckoned as a budget deficit.

6. Ministries, government organs and local offices are dutybound to maintain strict and continual control of the activity of secondary and tertiary units [as heard] and also of enterprises and other related institutions. They are also to carry out a practical and analytical study of the plans, and budget's implementation.

7. The Finance Ministry in cooperation with government organs has a duty to take and implement the necessary measures to expand and develop new sources of income, improve the present policy of the organization and collection of taxes, and to create the necessary methods of control. The ministry is also dutybound to present a detailed report to the Council of Ministers on 22 November 1980 on the first 6 months' implementation of the state budget.

The Council of Ministers' decision was submitted to the DRA Revolutionary Council presidium in order to complete the necessary legal procedure.

According to another report, the DRA Revolutionary Council presidium met on 16 March in the Revolutionary Council headquarters and approved the DRA Council of Ministers' decision on the government's normal and development budget for the 1980-81 fiscal year.

KABUL REPORTS ON EGYPTIAN 'SPY'S' PRESS CONFERENCE

LD180200 Kabul in English to Europe 1900 GMT 17 Mar 80 LD

[Excerpts] Zia'ddin Mahmud, an Egyptian spy recently caught by Afghan security authorities in Konarha Province, has confessed to his criminal acts, subversive activities as a CIA hireling. He has disclosed at a press conference with local and foreign newsmen suspicious acts and assignments given to him.

The 25 year-old Egyptian national had completed his education at Al-Azhar university as a construction engineer. After graduation he had gone to Kuwait and worked there for 4 years. Following is the gist of the questions and answers:

Question: Who had given you the assignment to come to Afghanistan?

Answer: I was given this assignment by ('Abdallah Aqailay), leader of the Jamaiset Islami of Kuwait, to come to Afghanistan.

Question: You arrived in Afghanistan via Pakistan. Whom did you meet in Pakistan and how did you cross the border?

Answer: I landed in Karachi from Kuwait and thence came to Peshawar by train. There I visited the rebel camps in Pakistan. I contacted the so-called Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan and met some people on its cultural committee. They secured the draft [as heard] for my journey into Afghanistan to carry out my duties.

Question: Did those who sent you here pay you some money also?

Answer: When I worked in Kuwait I was told that I would be paid at the end of my mission. Should you like to know its amount I must say it was not much. I had received from them an advance of about 1,200 rials.

Question: Were you alone or were there others also with you?

Answer: I wasn't alone. We were five people--two British and two Chinese also accompanied me.

Question: Who had trained you to carry out these duties?

Answer: About 5 or 6 months ago I was sent from Kuwait to West Germany. I cannot identify the place because I was wearing dark glasses and carried inside a black [as heard] vehicle.

Question: You call yourself a Muslim, but arms of U.S. manufacture have been found here and kind of weapons with which Israelis fight the Arabs. How did you join hands with Americans and the sources of such actions against Afghanistan?

Answer: I was told by my leader in Kuwait that we are now comprising a formidable force and that we should help others. We act with another big power--the United States--and should (?respect) under American leadership.

Question: Whom did you meet and what did you see in the rebel camps of Pakistan?

Answer: When we arrived in Peshawar I met with a Britisher who trained me for some time. Likewise there were many Pakistani and Chinese coaches training the rebels.

I was given this assignment by ('Abdallah Aqailay), who has lots of money, leads a comfortable life and enjoys the backing of Kuwaiti, Egyptian, Saudi Arabian and other governments.

Question: The various groups fleeing Afghanistan are armed, as you said earlier, by imperialist powers and Pakistan to fight Muslims. Do you regret, on the basis of your Islamic beliefs, this struggle, or subversion, as a holy war?

Answer: Of course, when I leave Afghanistan for my own country I will explain to my people all the facts I have seen with my own eyes. The propaganda campaign launched by the imperialist countries, our own and the reactionary circles there, have provided us with wrong information about Afghanistan. For instance, we were told in Kuwait that there existed no life in Afghanistan, that it was occupied by Soviet troops and they were trying to end life there. We heard that Muslims in this country werekilled with poisonous gases, humans get killed and the people of Afghanistan were fighting a superpower.

But when I arrived here I found I was deceived. I realized that the people are leading here ordinary lives in a decent manner. I will explain all these facts to my people and those of the world at large.

Question: Which acts did you commit since your arrival in Afghanistan till the time when you were arrested?

Answer: When I left Pakistan I did not have enough time so I traveled by [name indistinct] mountain. I spent the night at a hamlet in Konarha. I was encountered with two or three men those who were already trained in Pakistan. I also did not have enough time to train them how to make bombs or in other matters, and before long I was arrested by the Afghan security forces.

LE MONDE CITES REBEL CLAIMS OF KONARHA, GHANZI SUCCESSES

LD180811 Paris LE MONDE in French 15 Mar 80 p 3 LD

[Unattributed report: "The Rebels Report Withdrawal of Soviet Troops in Konarha and Ghazni Provinces"]

[Excerpt] On 13 March the Afghan rebel movements announced that they had won two victories in Konarha and Ghazni Provinces. According to Jam'iat-e Eslami Soviet troops have abandoned (Dangan) and Asmar where they had taken up position during the offensive launched in Konarha Province in the past few days.

Another small group, the Qales group of Hezb-e Eslami--a splinter group which broke off from the original Hezb-e Eslami--reported that the advance of a Soviet unit had recently been halted at (Karabagh), (Ghazni) after suffering "major losses." Several tanks and one helicopter were apparently destroyed and "hundreds" of Afghan soldiers killed. Apparently some 60 of them rallied to the rebel forces with their weapons. Sixteen rebels were apparently killed.

Another rebel movement has announced that Shahi Khan, a guerrilla leader, was killed during the fighting in Konarha.

Additional Victories Claimed

TA172014 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 17 Mar 80 TA

[Text] The Afghan rebels have announced further successes in their war against the Soviet soldiers. In a statement they released in Pakistan they reported they had fought back an attack by Soviet and Afghan soldiers on one of their positions 30 kilometers away from Kabul. In addition forty of the government's soldiers had defected over to their ranks in the course of the fight. They further reported they had fought back several attacks on their positions in the east of the country.

Other reports indicate, however, that in that region the Soviet soldiers, aided by tanks and helicopters, succeeded in liquidating some of the rebels' positions and are in fact controlling the region.

REGULATIONS PROMULGATED FOR TRAVELERS ON KABUL-BALKH ROUTE

LD171904 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The following announcement has been issued by the traffic department:

A great number of our countrymen will participate in the ceremonies of hoisting the holy flag of 'Ali on 21 March 1980 in the city of Mazar-e Sharif, and the flow of traffic on the highway between Kabul and Balkh will increase. (?In order to improve the flow of traffic) and to prevent traffic violations along the Kabul-Balkh highway, the following traffic and security decisions have been made and (?traffic police have been organized on this route). The responsible traffic (?police) are expecting the respected drivers to observe the following points:

1. They should have in their possession driving licences and vehicle tax documents.

2. [Words indistinct] and unnecessary parking on the highway, which is a danger to traffic and which may cause traffic accidents, must be avoided.

3. In view of the weather conditions, persons using the Salang Highway must insure the road worthiness of their vehicles and equip them with winter gear.

4. (?The vehicles using this route) must avoid placing passengers on the roofs of their vehicles.

5. (?On) the Kabul-Balkh highway and [words indistinct] Mazar-e Sharif, and with the guidance of the traffic police, they should park their vehicles in areas provided for this purpose. They should avoid parking vehicles in areas and parts of the highway which may lead to traffic obstructions.

6. On the Kabul-Balkh Highway and in the city of Mazar-e Sharif, in addition to local traffic police, the department of traffic responsible for highways, with equipment [words indistinct] have been appointed. The respected drivers (?should do their utmost to obey traffic regulations).

GOVERNMENT INTRODUCES MEASURES TO EASE BUS TRANSPORTATION

LD172216 Kabul in Dari to Europe 1730 GMT 17 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Announcement by the department of land transport of the Ministry of Transport and Tourism:

With the success of the new phase of the Sawr Revolution, and the interest of our revolutionary and national government, all transportation companies proudly announce to the dear countrymen that with the elimination of the suffocating period of Hafizollah Amin, the executioner, the unjust and antinational system of buses taking turn in line has ended. This system resulted in the loss of millions of afghani to the government and troubled the prople.

Now our noble and toiling countrymen can, with full peace of mind, make use of the buses of their own choice which are in the service of the people and the government and are regularly moving in all lines. Passengers can purchase tickets in the capital and provinces from the transport companies ticket offices.

OFFICIAL DELEGATION RETURNS FROM WPC CONFERENCE

GF171750 Kabul International Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Mar 80 GF

[Text] The Afghan peace organization delegation led by Mahmud Barialay, People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee member, which went to Ethiopia to participate in the World Peace Council conference, has returned home.

In a statement to a BAKHTAR correspondent at Kabul international airport, Mahmud Barialay said: The participants in the WPC conference have declared their sincere support for the Afghan people's true [word indistinct] to defend the gains of the April Revolution.

During its stay in Addis Ababa, the delegation conveyed a message from Babrak Karmal, PDPA Central Committee secretary general, Revolutionary Council chairman and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, to Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council of Ethiopia.

KABUL: FAMILIES RETURN TO HOMES IN KONARHA

LD142236 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1730 GMT 14 Mar 80 LD

[Text] With the beginning of the new revolutionary stage of the liberating Sawr Revolution, a number of those noble and tormented people of our country, who because of the tyrannies and injustices of the bloodthirsty butcher Amin left their homes, are returning, everyday, to their homes with full trust and confidence to resume their honorable lives once again.

According to reports from As'Adabad, the provincial capital of Konarha Province, more than (?200) repressed and tormented families of the Asmar district of Konarha Province, who during the reign of Amin, this servant of U.S. imperialism, left their homes, returned to their homes and resumed their normal lives in an atmosphere of peace and tranquility.

STATEMENT SAYS USSR ASSISTANCE IS NOT AGGRESSION

[Editorial Report LD] Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto at the end of its 1600 GMT newscast on 15 March carries the following announcer-read unattributed statement:

"Unlike what U.S. imperialism and (?its) Chinese servants and other reactionary forces of the region say, the disinterested Soviet military assistance to Afghanistan is in no way aggression against our nation. It is (?taking place) on the basis of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan request in order to defend our sacred soil against aggression by U.S. imperialism and the regional reaction."

INDIA

PAKISTAN MINISTER JANJUA CALLS ON MRS GANDHI IN DELHI

BK150334 Karachi Domestic Service in English 0300 GMT 15 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Federal Minister for Food and Agriculture Rear Admiral Mohammad Fazil Janjua, now in New Delhi to attend the 15th FAO conference for Asia and the Pacific, called on Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi yesterday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN says they are understood to have exchanged views on relations between the two countries and on possibilities for their further development to the mutual advantage of the two nations. The current security situation in the region was also discussed.

The Pakistan minister conveyed greetings and warm regards from President Mohammad Ziaul Haq to Mrs Indira Gandhi. The Indian prime minister stated to have asked the minister to convey her best wishes to the Pakistan president.

LOWER HOUSE APPROVES BUDGET FOR 1980-81

BK141539 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The Lok Sabha today passed the interim budget and the appropriation bill authorizing withdrawal of over 180,100 million rupees from the consolidated fund for the financial year 1980-81. The house also passed supplementary demands and the concerned appropriations bill for the issue of over 1,060 million rupees out of the consolidated fund for the current year.

PRIME MINISTER ON FOREIGN NATIONALS ISSUE IN ASSAM STATE

BK151615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Mar 80 BK

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Gandhi has said that in Assam, foreigners have to be removed but Indian citizens should not be put to difficulties. She was talking to newsmen at Jaipur airport today before leaving for Delhi after a day's visit to Rajasthan.

She said a balanced view has to be taken on the foreign national's issue in Assam. About the demand to take 1951 as the base year, she said that it cuts at the basic Indian tradition and the whole concept of nationhood.

VIOLENCE ERUPTS OVER MUSLIM STATUS AT ALIGARH UNIVERSITY

BK180045 Hong Kong AFP in English 1722 GMT 17 Mar 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 17 Mar (AFP)--Mob violence erupted in Aligarh town in this northern Uttar Pradesh state today over Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi's government move to restore the "minority" Moslem status of the Aligarh University.

An official bill seeking to restore the minority status of the university, in accordance with a pledge given to this effect by Mrs. Gandhi's Congress Party (Indira group) during the recent parliamentary poll campaign, is scheduled to be introduced before parliament next week.

Reports said students, opposed to the move and belonging to colleges affiliated to another university in the area, staged protest demonstrations, attacking public transport buses and some trains by throwing stones at them. One of the buses was set on fire. The mobs were chased away by police.

PAKISTAN

REPORTAGE OF PRC MILITARY DELEGATION'S OFFICIAL VISIT

Delegation Arrival

BK141621 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Mar 80 BK

[Text] A goodwill military delegation of the Peoples Republic of China headed by Vice Defense Minister Xiao Ke arrived in Rawalpindi a short while ago on a 6-day visit to Pakistan.

Defense Secretary General Lt Gen Ghulam Jillani Khan and seinir officers of the three armed services received the delegation at the airport. The Chinese ambassador in Pakistan was also present on the occasion.

Members of the delegation will hold talks with senior officers of the three armed services tomorrow morning.

First Round of Talks

BK151539 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The first round of talks between the visiting PRC goodwill military delegation led by Vice Minister for Defense Xiao Ke and high-ranking officers of the Pakistan armed services was held in Rawalpindi today. The talks lasted over 8 hours.

Defense Secretary General Lt Gen Ghulam Jillani Khan is hosting a reception in honor of the Chinese delegation tonight. The Chinese delegation will call on President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq tomorrow. Members of the delegation will also meet the defense minister, deputy chief of the army staff and the chief of the naval staff.

Delegation Calls on Defense Minister

BK160942 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 16 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The visiting Chinese goodwill delegation, led by Vice Minister for Defense Xiao Ke, called on the Defense Minister Mir Ali Ahmed Khan Talpur in Rawalpindi this morning and exchanged views with him on matters of mutual interest.

Later, the delegation called on Deputy Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Mohammad Iqbal Khan and held talks on matters of mutual interest. Lt Gen Mohammad Iqbal Khan presented the [military] decoration of [word indistinct] to the leader of the Chinese delegation and presented gifts to other members. The Chinese delegation leader presented a souvenir to deputy chief of staff.

Meeting With Haq

BK161548 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The Chinese goodwill military delegation led by Vice Minister for Defense Xiao Ke called on President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi this evening. Adviser on foreign affairs Agha Shahi, Secretary General of Defense Lt Gen Ghulam Jillani Khan, the foreign secretary and the Chinese ambassador to Pakistan were also present on the occasion.

Banquet Speeches

BK170433 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 Mar 80 BK

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq has expressed the confidence that the current visit of the Chinese goodwill military delegation will further increase the natural cooperation between Pakistan and China and strengthen the friendship between the two countries which is an example for the world.

Speaking at a dinner hosted by him in honor of the delegation, the president said that Pakistan views with respect the good Chinese sentiments for it. He said that the present visit of the Chinese delegation is a matter of happiness and dignity for Pakistan.

In his reply, Chinese Vice Minister for Defense Xiao Ke said that the Chinese people and the armed forces will continue to support the Pakistani people in their struggle for the protection of their country's independence, sovereignty and integrity. He said that the friendship between the two countries is based on principles which succeeded in every test and is in complete accordance with the basic interests of the two countries.

The dinner was attended by federal ministers and high civil and military officials.

Delegation Visits Peshawar

BK170936 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 17 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The visiting Chinese military delegation led by Vice Minister for Defense Xiao Ke arrived in Peshawar this morning where it was received by the Frontier Province Governor and Corp Commander Lt Gen Fazle Haq.

Later, the delegation called on chief of the air staff Air Marshal Mohammad Anwar Shamim at air force headquarters.

18 Mar Formal Diner

BK180553 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 18 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Defense Minister Mir Ali Ahmed Khan Talpur has said that the current visit of the Chinese military good will delegation will further strengthen existing friendly relations between the two countries. He was speaking at a banquet hosted by him in honor of the Chinese delegation.

PRC vice minister of defense and the leader of the delegation Xiao Ke said that he was greatly impressed by the firm determination with which the brave and (?valiant) people of Pakistan are defending security and sovereigty of their country. He said Pakistan occupies and important place in the region and it will play a decisive role in defending peace in the region.

PRESIDENT HAQ ON MILITARY RESHUFFLE, FOREIGN INTERFERENCE

OW171527 Paris AFP in English 1400 GMT 17 Mar 80 OW

[Text] Islamabad, March 17 (AFP)--President Mohammad Ziaul Haq of Pakistan today announced a major reshuffle in the army command because of a "foreign hand" in a reported coup.

He relieved four provincial military governors and two cabinet ministers of holding commands in the 6th Army Corps although they retain their posts as governors and ministers. Gen. Zia said he was "firmly convinced" that the reported "coup attempt" could not have taken place without a "foreign hand" behind the incident.

Referring to the arrest of retired Pakistan Army General Tajammul Hussain last month, Gen. Zia said that retired officer would be dealt with under the law.

Gen. Zia added that the trouble was only surface-deep and expressed regret at reports in the foreign press which gave the impression "Pakistan has been turned upside down." Regretting that the moment Pakistan "found a little stability," someone created a new "situation," the president concluded that "in itself," the general's arrest was insignificant.

Further Report

BK171721 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Mar 80 BK

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said his government is trying for more and more involvement by the civil administration and less by the army in running the affairs of the country. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad this morning, he said the four provincial governors, while continuing in the army service, will be basically civil administrators and will no longer be corps commanders. New corp commanders have been appointed from today. Similarly, federal ministers connected with the armed services will now be members of the cabinet only.

He said the promotion of six army officers yesterday was the first step in the program to bring about the changes indicated by him a couple of days ago. This is indicative of the army's efforts to dissassociate itself from civil affairs. However, the president made it clear that in the intervening period they would fulfill the responsibilities which they had taken upon themselves. The civil administrators would have the cover of martial law, which would continue in its present form. He said this should not be taken to mean that the army will go back to the barracks.

In reply to a question, the president said announcement of other changes contemplated by him will be made in due time. The president said the armed forces have no intention of remaining in power permanently. We want to return the administration to the representatives of the people. However, they were under very strong compulsion, as certain programs and outside [word indistinct] are before us which involve certain important decisions. The president said a civil administration in the true sense is not possible with the existence of a chief martial law administrator. He said that later, if at any time he decides to go to the people and get their mandate, he would be justified in changing the form of the administration.

He thanked the people for extending support to him. The president said he is glad that at least he has corrected the direction of the nation and put it on the right path toward Islam.

In reply to a question, he said he is going to hold three more local bodies conventions. The first convention will discuss ways to speed up the establishment of an Islamic order with noted Muslim scholars and learned men taking part in it the next convention will be attended by scientific experts including educators, scientists and representatives from elected bodies like the bar councils and medical associations. The third convention will deal with increasing agricultural production in the country. He said if we have one more good crop like the present one, then God willing, Pakistan will be self-sufficient in food. We will then be able to dispense with such systems as rationing and subsidies. Underlining the objectives of these conventions, he said they are meant to fill the gap between the government and the people.

Asked to comment on reports that the 1977 National Assembly is being revived, he said there is truth to this report. On reviving the Senate, he said the Law Ministry is still studying the matter.

The president described as mere speculation reports that he is to make some important announcement on the 23d of this month. He said though he has to make certain important announcements, they will be made at the proper time.

He was also asked to comment on reports circulated by foreign media about an attempted coup in Pakistan. In reply, he said this was an attempt by just one individual who involved himself in illegal mischief, and he would be dealt with accordingly. It was an incident without any signifidance and was not deep-rooted. He said it is his firm conviction that this incident could not have taken place unless there was a foreign hand in it. He said this is part of the efforts aimed at creating a new situation in Pakistan just when the country has come out of a situation endangering its stability.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES PROMOTION OF SIX TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL

BK161521 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The Government of Pakistan today announced the promotion of six major generals to the position of Lieutenant general. The promoted officers are:

Maj Gen Jamal Sayed Mian
Maj Gen Ahmad Jamal Khan
Maj Gen Jahandad Khan
Maj Gen Sardar Farooq Shawkat Khan Lodhi
Maj Gen Chowdhury Abdul Majid Khan
Maj Gen Khalid Mahmud Arif.

HAQ SEEKS MORE PARTICPATION BY CIVIL ADMINISTRATION

BK171100 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 17 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The president has said the government is trying to have more and more participation of the civil administration in running the affairs of the country. Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq told newsmen in Islamabad this morning that there would be lesser involvement of the army; and the four provincial governors, while continuing in service, would be basically civil administrators. There would be no more corps commanders.

He said the promotion of six army officers yesterday was the first step in their program to bring about certain changes, which he had indicated couple of days ago. He said it was indicative of the army's efforts to disassociate itself. However, he made it clear that in the intervening period they would fulfill the responsibilities they had taken upon themselves. The civil administration would have the cover of martial law, which would continue in its present form. He said this is, however, not be taken to mean that the army would go back to the barracks.

SHAHI RETURNS HOME AFTER ATTENDING MOROCCO CONFERENCE

BK161031 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 16 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Adviser on Foreign Affairs Agha Shahi arrived in Karachi this morning after attending the 2-day second ministerial session of the organization of the Islamic Conference which began in Morocco on the 11th of this month under the chairmanship of King Hassan II.

The committee decided to hold a special session in Islamabad prior to the beginning of the 11th Islamic Conference of foreign ministers being held next month.

INDIAN LOK SABHA MEMBER MEETS AGHA SHAHI

BK181041 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 18 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Dr Subramaniam Swamy, a member of the Indian Lok Sabha now on a goodwill visit to Pakistan, had a meeting with Adviser on Foreign Affairs Agha Shahi in Islamabad this morning. Earlier, he had met Foreign Secretary S. Shahnawaz.

During his stay in Pakistan Dr Subramaniam Swamy will also visit an Afghan refugee camp in the Northwest Frontier Province.

TURKISH AIR FORCE COMMANDER ARRIVES ON VISIT TO PESHAWAR

BK141625 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Turkish Air Force Commander General Tahsin arrived in Peshawar this evening on a week's visit to Pakistan. He was welcomed at the airport by Pakistan Air Force Chief Air Marshal Mohammad Anwar Shamim and senior officers of the air force and army.

The Turkish Air Force commander will meet the president during his stay in Pakistan and will hold talks with the air force chief. He will also call on the defense minister, deputy chief of the army staff and the navy chief and visit Pakistan air force installations.

KARACHI REPORTS ATTEMPTED STUDENT DEMONSTRATION IN LAHORE

BK180247 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Mar 80 BK

[Text] ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, quoting an official handout released in Lahore, has said that many students gathered in the old and new campuses of the Punjab University with the intention of holding a demonstration. At both places the students were prevented from holding the demonstration as it violates martial law regulations. Thirty-two persons were arrested. However, the students were later released after (?interrogation).